

Who are the Top 20 Star Wars Characters? Find out on Page 66

STAR WARS INSIDER

Samuel L. Jackson

Exclusive Prequel Interview

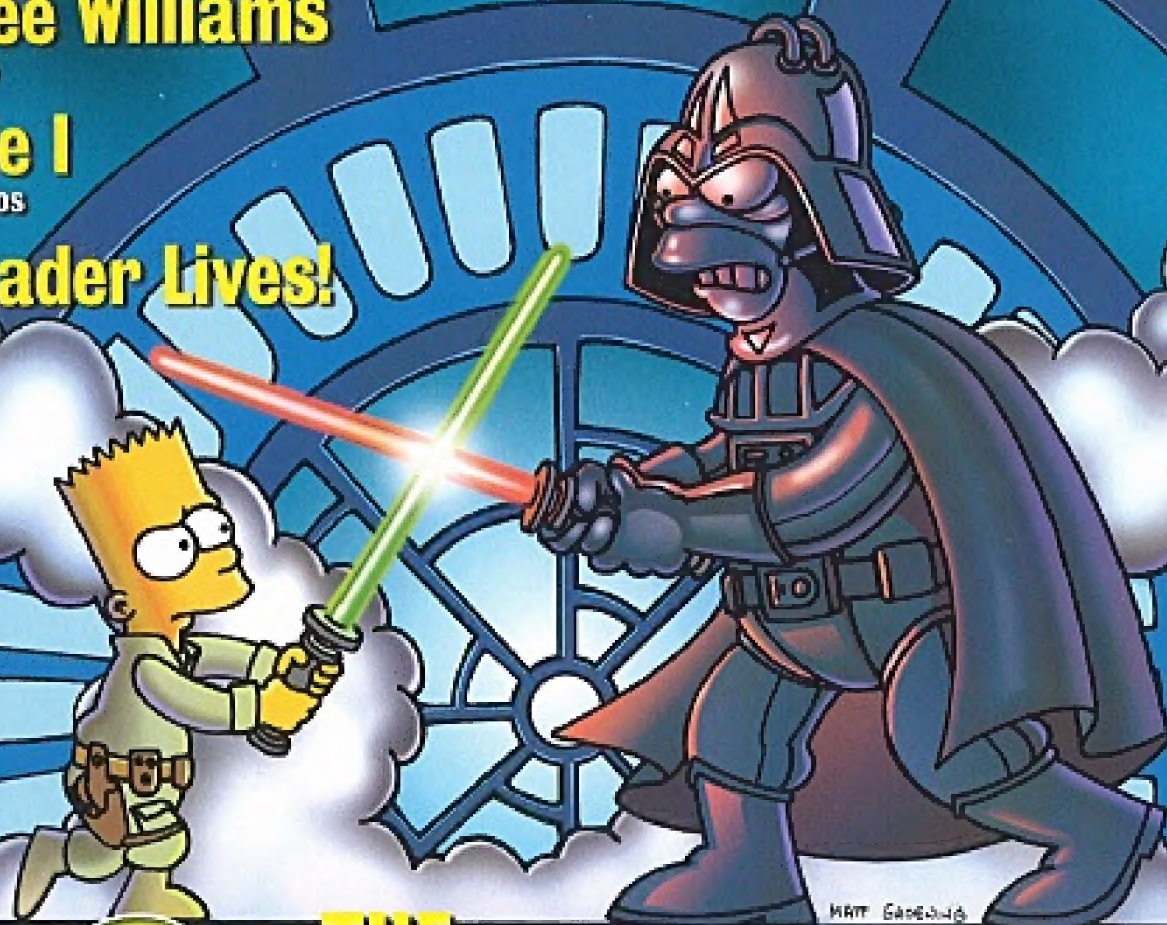
Billy Dee Williams

Our Man Lando

Episode I

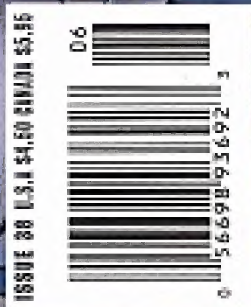
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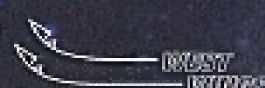
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Poll: Your Favorite *Star Wars* Characters

Jon Bradley Snyder reveals the results of the *Insider's* exhaustive reader poll, complete with your quotes about your favorite characters.

Me and Mr. Burns

I didn't realize it until I actually took up the thankless task of counting the years, but I've been enjoying the work of Matt Groening almost as long as I have *Star Wars*.

Growing up in Spokane, Washington, in the early '80s, I faithfully read Groening's *Life in Hell* comics each month in the Seattle music magazine *The Rocket*. In 1984 I bought his first jumbo-size *Life in Hell* book, *Love Is Hell*—which I still think is one the greatest humor graphic

novelists. It seems like every year at the San Diego Comic-Con International, I see Groening cruising the floor buying and supporting self-published and independent publications (which, by the way, is how the company that publishes this magazine got its start almost 20 years ago).

My hunch—and it's my job to be right about hunches like this—is that many of you readers are also *Simpsons* fans and will dig this

>> ...one of my favorite parts of being a *Star Wars* fan is seeing how the films sneak into other parts of popular culture.

albums ever. Later, when I was in college at Evergreen State in Olympia, Washington (coincidentally, also Groening's alma mater), I would make life stop to watch *The Simpsons*, first on the *Tracy Ullman Show* and then on their own Fox series.

Today my friends know that I usually don't refer to *The Simpsons* by name; instead, I call it "The Only Reason I Own A Television." So if you're wondering why we did a *Simpsons/Star Wars* cover story for this issue, the answer is simple: Because I wanted to.

Much like Springfield's Mr. Burns, my capricious self-interested whims completely control this magazine. Our editorial formula is a little thing called "What Pleases Jon." That's why next issue will have a cover story about my favorite topic, "The *Star Wars* Influence on Early Eighties Heavy Metal."

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.

But seriously, one of my favorite parts of being a *Star Wars* fan is seeing how the films sneak into other parts of popular culture. *Star Wars* references in *The Simpsons* have consistently been some of the most hilarious ones out there. I also think Matt Groening, like George Lucas, is a visionary who genuinely loves his medium and supports the work of fel-

low artists. If not—if you think that Homer and Bart portrayed as Darth and Luke is sacrilege, a crass bastardization of everything *Star Wars*—don't send me any nasty letters. I'm warning you, do not anger me. I'm ready to pull the trigger on my "Star Wars Influence on Early Eighties Heavy Metal" cover story. Then you'll be sorry.

Just try me—dude.

Jon Bradley Snyder
Editor-in-Chief



P.S. A million thanks to Lucy Autrey Wilson of Lucas Licensing and Antonia Coffman and Peter Alexander of *The Simpsons*, without whom this *Simpsons/Star Wars* cover story would not have been possible.

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"Bart, I am your father!" D'oh! This incredible cover was created exclusively for the *Insider* thanks to our friends at *The Simpsons* and Fox.

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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

Dan Medien

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jon Bradley Snyder

MANAGING EDITOR

Scott Chernoff

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Michael Vukob, Zack Taylor, Christine Larose

COLUMNISTS

Scott Chernoff, Peet Jones, Anthony Daniels, Stephen J. Sansweet

SENIOR WRITERS

Jamie Palmer, Stephen J. Sansweet

STAFF ARTISTS

Hugh Fleming, Russ Kaiser

ADVERTISING SALES

David Latimer, Digital Print & Film

(212) 946-1902

FINANCIAL COMPTROLLER

Steven F. Shaffer

THE OFFICIAL STAR WARS FAN CLUB SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS:

Judy Calhoun, Roger Demoss, Don Fitzpatrick, Will Fogle, Cindy Gamett, Lorena Halboth, Judy Hooks

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Tina Tweedale

CONSULTING EDITOR FOR LUCASFILM

Allan Kausch

CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE

David Anderman, Lynne Hale, George Lucas, Julian Montoya, Rick McCallum, Anne Merrifield, Stacy Mollens, Athena Portillo, Howard Roffman, Julian Russo, Jim Ward, Lucy Autrey Wilson

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rebel rumblings

Iceberg!

It is March 16 and I've just learned the unthinkable: *Star Wars* has been dethroned as the #1 movie in America by *Titanic*! I would like to take the time right now to declare that I have not once seen *Titanic*, and any self-professed *Star Wars* fan who has should feel ashamed of themselves. But you have a chance to redeem yourselves beginning May 25, 1999. Of course I'm referring to *Star Wars*: Episode I. A *New Hope* has been dethroned but it should be the goal of every *Star Wars* fan to help Episode I ascend to its rightful place at #1. To this end, I pledge to personally put \$100 into the first prequel. May the Force be with you.

ALEK LEASHEFSKI Port Carbon, PA

Probably just like any *Star Wars* fan, I was outraged that *Titanic* passed up *Star Wars* at the box office. With this in mind, I'd just like to make a statement: any true *Star Wars* fan will never see *Titanic*. I don't care if it's in the theater, or on home video, or on anything. I'm calling it my religious fast from *Titanic*. Now, who's with me?

WILL FERLIS Ballwin, MO

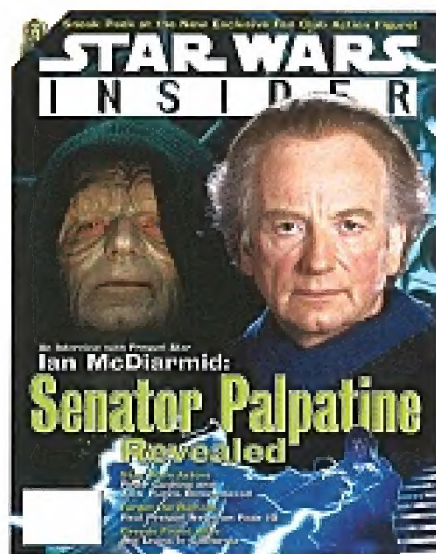
Well guys, I guess I am not a true *Star Wars* fan. Perhaps I should resign my post of managing editor. After all, I saw *Titanic*. Not only that, but I also enjoyed it. Of course, it can't even touch *Star Wars*. Come on, Will & Alek—we all know that *Star Wars* is the greatest movie of all time, no matter how much money *Titanic* makes. My love of the saga would remain the same even if *Star Wars* hadn't made a penny.

And by the way, where were you guys for the 15 years that *Star Wars* was second to E.T. on the list of top-grossers? (It only regained its #1 position with the release of the Special Edition last year.) Besides, *A New Hope* was bound to be surpassed as ticket prices and distribution continue to rise. True, Episode I may oust *Titanic* from the #1 spot, but if it doesn't, will you like it any less? I doubt it.

Say It Ain't So!

First of all, great magazine! I've been a subscriber for a couple of years now, and through all the evolving that your magazine has gone through, it has only gotten better. Keep up the good work!

What I'm really writing about is the projected prequel release dates that were printed



in Issue 37 of the *Insider*. I remember hearing once that all the films, or at least Episodes I and II, were going to be filmed back-to-back, and then released just far enough apart so that each one would make its share of money. What happened? I am only in eighth grade, so I don't remember when the original movies came out, but I know it must have been excruciating to wait three years for the next movie. It just seems odd that the *Star Wars* prequels will not be complete until I am in my third year of college. I realize that these dates are probably not going to change that much now that they have been printed, but I would just like to know what the reasoning behind it all is. Thanks!

NICHOLAS AARON PHILBROOK
Boise, ID

I just found out the truth: 2005 is the last prequel. Ahhhh, they're killing us out here! I may only be nine, but I love *Star Wars*. Now, I'll be 13 for the second and 16 for the last? Well, at least it'll never die out! You're doing great! May the Force be with you!

BILLY MacMILLAN Point Mugu, CA

Billy and Nicholas, I understand your frustration—but you may be surprised how quickly time will fly. When I was a kid, it was difficult waiting three years for *Return of the Jedi*, but since then I've waited an astonishing 15 years for the next *Star Wars* movie, so waiting seven more years for Episode III doesn't seem so bad to me.

» continued on page 81

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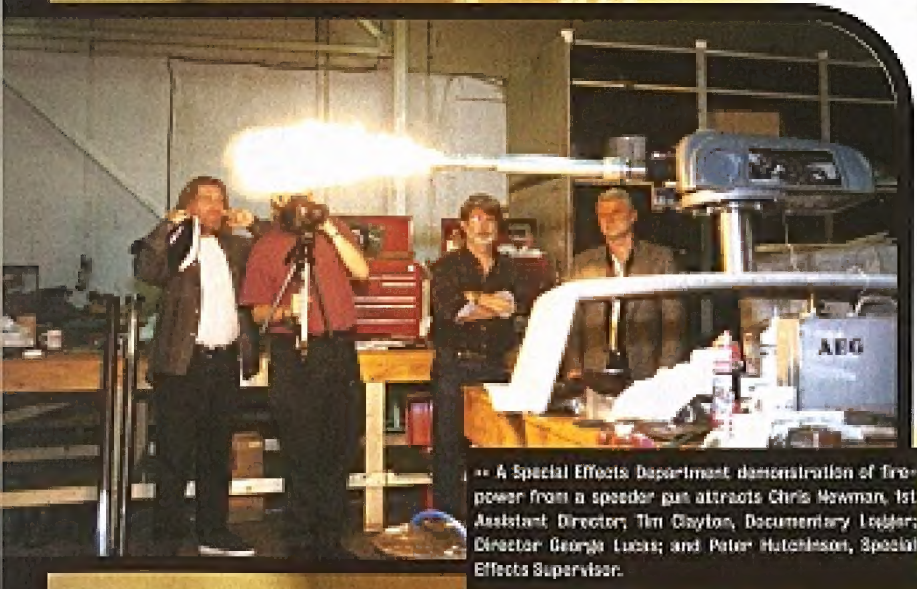
UPDATE

by Dan Madsen

with **Rick McCallum**



>> Digby Milner, Senior Special Effects Floor Technician, works on a distinctive speeder gun in the Special Effects Department at Leavesden Studios.



>> A Special Effects Department demonstration of fire-power from a speeder gun attracts Chris Newman, 1st Assistant Director; Tim Clayton, Documentary Editor; Director George Lucas; and Peter Hutchison, Special Effects Supervisor.

In our continuing series of updates with Producer Rick McCallum, Dan Madsen goes behind the scenes to bring you the latest news on the *Star Wars* prequels.

Rick, how much shooting is left on Episode II?

We've got some shooting to do in late summer with a few of the actors. We're still just building a list of some of the little things we're going to do then. We'll be shooting for maybe three or four days.

How has your work changed now that you are fully into post-production? Are you spending a lot of time at ILM?

We still have an enormous amount of work that has to be done to get fully out of Leavesden. We have to break it all down, strike the sets, etc. I've been involved in overseeing a lot of that as well as looking into the structure of ILM and how they're going to finish all the effects. It's all going well, though. They have the most talented people at ILM. They have the most wonderful animation department. I have the best supervisors: John Knoll, Scott Squires, Rob Coleman, and Dennis Muren. They are not just talented guys but they've all got great personalities which makes them a pleasure to work with. >>

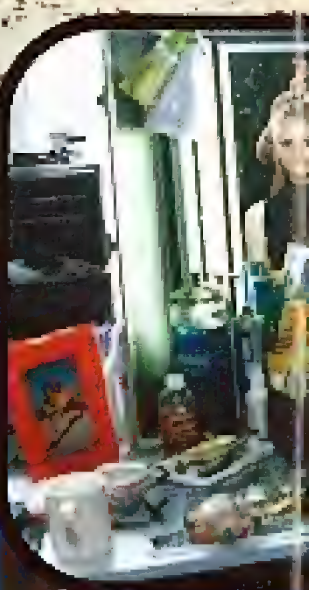
... A rarely seen view of a prop engine—from the inside—is experienced by two modelers at Leavesden, as they work to give the structure internal strength and provide spots to attach other mechanisms.



Photos by Colin Wight



Photos by Keith Hamshire



» David Tattersall, Director of Photography, and Director George Lucas discuss the set-up for a shot of Senator Palpatine's quarters on the planet Coruscant.

» A few hovels dot the landscape of Mos Espa, a settlement on the desolate planet of Tatooine.



Photo by Ollie Koyta

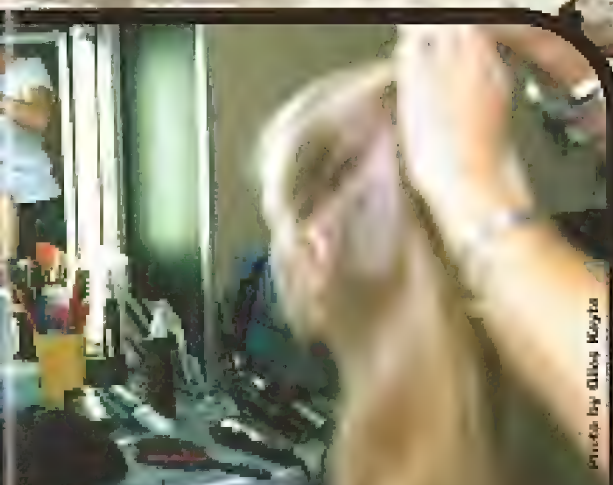
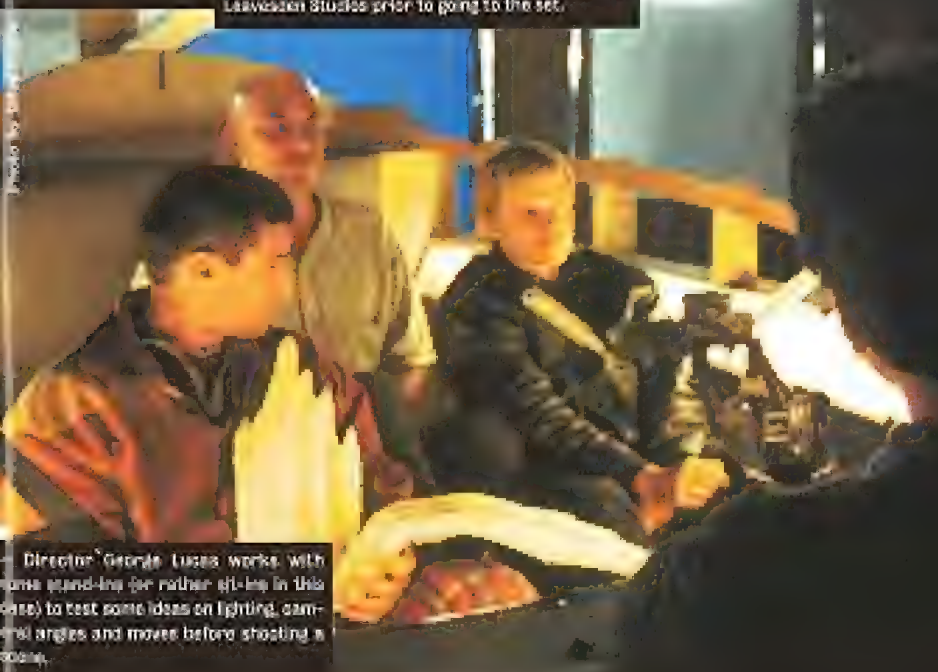


Photo by Ollie Koyta

» Friday Wilson, one of the handmaidens to the young queen in *Star Wars: Episode I*, spends some time in the Hair and Make-Up Department at Leavesden Studios prior to going to the set.



» Director George Lucas works with two young boys on a set, testing ideas on lighting, camera angles and moves before shooting a scene.

» The characters that we developed in our art department are now coming to life and they are just fantastic.

—RICK MCCALLUM

What is the most complex CG effect you are working on?

The biggest direction and the biggest push we're making is in character animation. The characters that we developed in our art department are now coming to life and they are just fantastic. Rob Coleman is in charge of that and he's just been unbelievable.

Is there a timetable for the release of a title for this movie?

No. That will come as the film evolves. George hasn't really been able to focus on that yet.

When will John Williams begin scoring the film?

He will start spotting in late fall and then start scoring in late January or February. »



Photo by Drew Heylin

→ Halloween, or just another day at the Creature Effects Department? This is one of many shelves at Lucasfilm Studios filled with masks and prosthetics for aliens who populate George Lucas' galaxy. Seen here are some heads and hands for the creature who has been known as Ren-Yee, a Gamorrean Guard mask and an unfinished Yoda head.

>> We're working on our third rough cut now. Everything is brilliant. George is so laid back and low maintenance. He just gets on with the work every day. —RICK MCGALLUM

What is George mostly doing now?

Editing. He is focused directly on the editing. He's supervising the temp tracks that are being done with Ren Burt. But his big focus right now is getting a final cut of the movie. We're working on our third rough cut now. Everything is brilliant. George is so laid back and low maintenance. He just gets on with the work every day.

What is happening with your location scouting for Episode II?

We've been doing exhaustive location scouting in New Zealand and Australia, Italy and Tunisia.

Why New Zealand? It seems that New Zealand has become a hot place to shoot these days.

For us it just has beautiful locations and great crews.

Does it look like all the crew from Episode I will be back for the next picture?

It's really too early to say.

Are you guys considering a short list of names yet to direct Episode II?

No, not until George gets the script completed.

Do you have a tentative schedule for Episode II?

Not yet.

Are there any other projects Lucasfilm is working on now besides *Star Wars*, like another *Indiana Jones* film?

There is nothing else but *Star Wars* right now.

Rick, on a personal note, what music do you listen to that gets you through this difficult production process?

I have a very extensive classical collection with Mozart, Beethoven and Mendelssohn as my favorites. But what I listen to now is really only film music—I love film music from the 30's and 40's. Some of my favorites are Alfred Newman, Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Max Steiner. It's all wonderful stuff. I listen to music all the time—in my car on the way to work, going back home, at home—you name it. Music is very important to me. It soothes my soul! ☺

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Dueling Lightsabers

by Jamie Painter
Stunt Coordinator Nick Gillard

When actors Liam Neeson and Ewan McGregor step into the shoes of Jedi in the upcoming *Star Wars: Episode I*, their nimble footwork and swift lightsaber moves should be credited to Nick Gillard, the film's respected stunt coordinator.

Gillard was charged with the crucial task of overseeing the action sequences in the film. As Gillard recalled, the most difficult part of his job was choreographing scenes in which the actors had to "fight stuff that wasn't there, that's going to be popped in later by Industrial Light & Magic."

Another challenge was to create the fictional martial art used by the Jedi Knights. Since the Jedi have to fight enemies who sometimes use more advanced weapons, Gillard had to justify, in his mind, why they would use such an ancient form of fighting.

"I figured that if the Jedi had chosen a sword, they'd have to be really good with it," said Gillard. "So I took the essence of all the great sword techniques, from kendo through sabre, épée, and foil, and tried to flow them all together."

In creating a new form of fighting for *Star Wars: Episode I*, Gillard has actually advanced the field of swordplay.

As the esteemed stunt coordinator explained, the popular swordplay using épée (a French term for a fencing or dueling sword) employs a combination of six moves, but "for *Star Wars*, we had to come up with a new language in sword writing and a brave new way of doing things, and we went up to eleven moves. We're way beyond épée now."

Gillard was especially impressed with Neeson and McGregor, who with little time to prepare for their roles, quickly mastered the dexterity of legendary Jedi warriors.

"I couldn't have wanted more from either

of them," said the stunt coordinator. "Sometimes they learned ten minutes before we shot a scene. They were that good. I did have more time with Ewan, but he had more complex moves."

Gillard has spent more than two decades perfecting his craft. He began his stunt career at age 12 when he ran away from military school to join the circus. By sixteen, he was a world-class horse-trick rider with the Moscow State Circus and was offered his first film job on *The Thief of Baghdad*. Afterwards, Gillard signed on as a stunt apprentice in England for five years—the required time it takes for a stunt person to be certified. During that time, he trained under well-known stunt coordinator Vic Armstrong, whose credits include the *Indiana Jones*, *Superman*, and *James Bond* films.

Since becoming a professional stuntman, Gillard has worked on *Aliens* (he played the Alien queen), *Interview with the Vampire* (he doubled for Tom Cruise), *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and its sequel, *The Last Crusade*, and the TV series *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*. Gillard's sword work has been displayed in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, *The Three Musketeers*, *1492: Conquest of Paradise*, and *Henry V*. He also was the stunt coordinator on *Seven Years in Tibet*.

Gillard holds several unofficial world records, including a 200-foot power boat jump over two bridges in the film *Amsterdam* and a full fire burn without air for more than two minutes on *Alien 3* (meaning he didn't breath

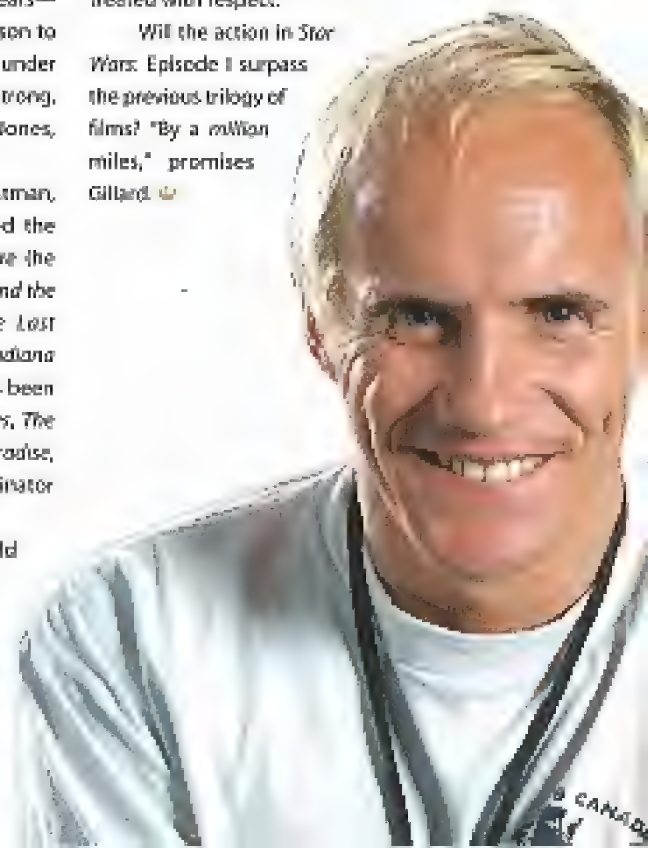
while on fire, lest oxygen ignite his lungs). He has been on fire at least 100 times and still calls his job "the best line of work in the world."

Ironically, one of the first sets he ever stepped foot on was *Star Wars*. Gillard, who was 18 years old at the time, recalled, "I was at Elstree [Studios] seeing about another job and I just strolled on to the set of *Star Wars*, because there were a couple of stunt people I knew. I was blown away. I desperately wanted to work on it."

More than twenty years later, he finally has his chance to contribute to the *Star Wars* legacy. For Gillard, who says he is "one of the hugest" fans of the *Star Wars* trilogy and an avid collector of *Star Wars* memorabilia, the opportunity to work on the *Star Wars* prequel is a personal honor and a crowning moment in his career.

"If you're that much of a fan, you desperately want it to be done right," he explained. "*Star Wars* is a piece of history and it's got to be treated with respect."

Will the action in *Star Wars: Episode I* surpass the previous trilogy of films? "By a million miles," promises Gillard. ☺



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» Drewe Henley leads the attack on the Death Star as Red Leader in *Star Wars: Special Edition*.



Drewe Henley

Leader of the Pack

by Scott Chernoff

It's been over a year since the call went out for Red Leader.

Drewe Henley, who played the fearless Rebel hero who led the attack on the Death Star in *Star Wars*, was one of three actors the *Insider* couldn't locate for Issue 32's "Rebel Pilot Reunion." Fearing the worst, the *insider* went public and asked readers for help in tracking down those pilots who were missing in action.

John Morton, who played Dack in *The Empire Strikes Back*, was located almost immediately in Annapolis, Maryland (and profiled in Issue 34), but Henley and Graham Ashley (who played *Star Wars*' Gold Five and is our last missing Rebel pilot) remained at large. It would be several months of deafening silence before the *Insider* received a mysterious communique from the far-off land of Bangkok, Thailand.

The letter was from Greg Watkins, executive director of the British Chamber of Commerce's Bangkok office, informing us that Drewe Henley was in Devon, England, where the actor who thrilled millions by firing the first proton torpedo at the Death Star runs a bed-and-breakfast inn called Granary Cottage with his wife of seven years. "It's a very nice job,"

Henley told the *Insider*. "It's really super to meet people."

One reason why Henley, now 57, might have been so hard to find: his name was spelled incorrectly in *Star Wars*' closing credits, where he was identified as "Drewe Hemley"—a mistake repeated in the Special Edition. "For the record," the actor said, "the name is Drewe, D-R-E-W-E, and the surname is H-E-N-L-E-Y."

It turns out the *insider* wasn't alone in losing track of Henley. "I got about four or five fan letters the first time *Star Wars* came out, but only one since," he confessed, noting that no one—not the guests in his inn nor the people he passes on the streets—are aware of his *Rebellious* legacy. "Completely unrecognized I am," he quipped.

That's also because *Star Wars*, shot in 1976, was Henley's last film. He was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy shortly after finishing his work as Red Leader.

"I had to give up the business," he said, "because learning lines became an impossibility, and also I couldn't risk getting in the middle of a shoot and having a recurrence of my ill-

ness, which as you may or may not know, takes one right up high or right down to the depths. It goes away and comes back. It's one hell of an illness. At the moment, I'm stable. I suppose it's parallel with flying an aircraft—keeping it on a level course and not letting it nose-dive or zoom upward to unimaginable heights."

Henley said retiring from acting was difficult. "It was gradual, finally realizing that it was impossible for me to work anymore," he said. "It took a lot of getting used to."

But after living with MD for two decades, Henley is philosophical about the disease. "It's part of one's personal experiences," he said. "Some people have much worse illnesses. I have to be truthful about what happened, simply because people are going to wonder anyway. They think, 'OK, why hasn't he worked in anything significant at all for the last 20 years?' Apart from that, there are other sufferers who might be interested to read this."

However, though Henley has not acted in any films since his diagnosis, he has kept active creatively at his local playhouse. "It's not entirely past, because I do a lot of work, mostly directing, for the amateur group in our area," he said. "It's very enjoyable." The actor has also done occasional work as a background performer in some British films over the years. Also, in addi-

tion to his work at Granary Cottage, Henley has worked since *Star Wars* in a nursery and as a driver—"Jobs," he said, "that weren't too stressful."

Born in Worcester, England, the young Henley was sitting in a movie theater watching James Dean in *East of Eden* when he decided he wanted to be an actor. "I made up my mind that's what I'd like to do," he remembered. "I had always been interested in films. My family used to go weekly and see the latest films, and that made a strong impression on me I'm sure. I went to drama school, and I also went to art school to add a second string to my bow."

Henley was still in drama school when he set about making a short film with a friend. "We couldn't find anybody who wanted to play the main part," Henley recalled, "so I said, 'There's an opportunity for me.' Once they were finished, Henley and his partner showed the film to some producers they hoped would provide them with funding to expand it to a full-length feature. "They said, 'Well, we don't think we want to finance your film, but we like your work. Will you be in our next film?'"

Henley jumped at the opportunity, and soon found himself playing opposite no less than Peter Sellers in *Heavenly Creatures* (1963). It wasn't long before Henley was appearing onstage on London's West End, and doing numerous television appearances (including *UFO* and two episodes of *Space: 1999*—as well as a TV-movie based on the series).

On the silver screen, Henley found work in British films such as *A Man for All Seasons* (1966), *When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth* (1970), *The Alphabet Murders* (1966), *633 Squadron* (1964), *Operation Crossbow* (1965), *Nothing But the Best* (1964), *Hot Boats* (1970), *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* (1976), and *Alfred Hitchcock's Frenzy* (1972). "But *Star Wars*," he said, "was the most interesting."

"It brought back memories of when I was a kid," Henley continued, "I used to be very interested in sci-fi paperback books, and I'd do cardboard models of what I imagined space ships would look like." But the actor said the starships of *Star Wars* exceeded even his imagination. "When I read the script," he said, "I hadn't envisaged the degree to which the design of the hardware had come out of a completely different concept than the one I'd been used to when I was reading these sci-fi books."

"I mean, I just saw space ships in a kind of luminous green, and very bulbous and rounded. But the *Millennium Falcon*, for instance, was the most incredible design. I like the X-wing particularly, because that was my baby. I like

the way it looks. It's elegant in its design. It's like a greyhound—it's stripped down to the bare essentials and all ready for action."

Henley shot most of his scenes inside the cockpit of his X-wing, perched up high on a platform in front of a blue-screen, and like many of his fellow pilots he had to deal not only with crew members shaking the platform but also with the explosives that went off when Red Leader was shot down by Darth Vader's TIE fighter.

Still, Henley said, "That didn't worry me. It wasn't as if it was up terribly high, and even the movement wasn't a concern. But I found it difficult working in isolation from other actors. We were each in our separate cockpits, and we didn't actually have real contact with each other. It

I like the X-wing particularly, because that was my baby. I like the way it looks. It's elegant in its design. It's like a greyhound—it's stripped down to the bare essentials and all ready for action.

was acting in a vacuum, which I found quite difficult. It's easy to play a scene when you've got someone to play with, but they were all invisible to me."

Nevertheless, Henley managed to set Red Leader apart from the rest of his squadron, making it palpably clear that this starfighter had been around the galaxy a few times. "Having read the part and studied it before I came in," he said, "I'd seen the Red Leader as being the older man with more experience and responsibility, and I didn't think he would demonstrate, or allow to be seen, too much degree of excitement—he needed to be very cool for the younger pilots' sakes."

In fact, Henley said his vision of the character was in slight conflict with that of director George Lucas. "What he wanted was for me to show more excitement," the actor explained. "So I discussed this with him, and we compromised. I started off that way (relaxed and confident), but when we were actually going to go into action against the Death Star, the excitement gradually builds. The bit where the excitement came is when I'm saying, to myself as it were, 'Almost there.' Almost there. The rest, like 'Lock S-foils' and earlier dialogue, is said a bit like John Wayne."

Henley said he was gratified and impressed that Lucas was willing to take his interpretation of the character into consideration. "I thought I had bit of a nerve—it was his

film, after all," the actor said. "But he went along with that, and I think in the end he might have appreciated what I suggested. I hope so."

Creating such a rich character within such limited physical confines was tough, Henley said. "Most of those scenes were filmed in close-up," he explained, "so one hopes the audience is going to pick up the performance from the smallest part of the face." But, he said, "80 percent is in the voice"—and unlike some of his fellow *Star Wars* actors, Henley's voice was not re-dubbed by somebody else during post-production. (Henley used an American accent for the part.)

"When I walked into the studio to do my voice-over dubbing," Henley remembered, "I

was absolutely bowled over by the stuff that was coming up on the screen. I didn't realize how exciting the battle sequence of the Death Star was going to be. They did some magnificent editing. It was electrifying. At that point, I knew it was going to be something different."

Henley was also pleased with the editing of the *Star Wars* Special Edition, which restored the scene in which Biggs introduced Red Leader to Luke Skywalker just before the Death Star attack. "They used a lot of stuff they didn't use in the first one, and my performance had increased quite a lot, so of course being a selfish and vain actor, I was quite pleased," he said. "It almost made up for the fact that my name was still spelled incorrectly in the credits."

But however his name is spelled, Henley's performance in *Star Wars* is indelible, and the actor said he was thrilled to have had the chance to perform in a movie that is loved by so many people and became such a major part of pop culture—a powerful caper to Henley's successful, though short-lived, acting career. "It's a good feeling, a nice feeling, to have done something like that," Henley said. "I'm pleased."

Get a favorite *Star Wars* supporting actor you'd like to see interviewed? E-mail your suggestions to Scott Chernoff in the Star Wars Universe: SWUniverse@aol.com. Though all e-mails are read, individual responses are unfortunately not possible due to time constraints.

Star Wars Salutes Titanic

No, that picture you see below is not the cover of a new *Star Wars*-*Titanic* comic book. It's the art work of Iain McCaig from a full-page ad taken out by Lucasfilm in film industry trade papers *Variety* and *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The ad is an extension of a tradition established by George Lucas and fellow filmmaker Steven Spielberg, and is Lucas' way of publicly congratulating producer/director James Cameron on the phenomenal box office success of Cameron's *Titanic*. It appeared shortly after Cameron's Oscar-winning epic overtook *Star Wars* as the highest-grossing film in U.S. history.

The gesture originated in 1978, when *Star Wars* bumped Spielberg's *Jaws* from the #1 spot on the list of all-time biggest U.S. hits. Spielberg placed an ad that featured a drawing of R2-D2 skipping ahead of the *Jaws* shark in line, as well as a friendly congratulations. Lucas returned the favor in 1982, when *E.T.* surpassed *Star Wars*. Last year, when *Star Wars* was re-released and earned enough money at the box office to regain its #1 title, Spielberg placed a trade paper ad with a picture of *E.T.* returning Artoo's crown.

Titanic was released in December, 1997, and by March had already dislodged *Jurassic Park* from atop the list of biggest worldwide grossers before it surged past *Star Wars* on the U.S. list, raking in well over \$550,000,000 at press time. (*Star Wars* gross stands at \$461,000,000.)

Still, while there is no denying *Titanic*'s obviously enormous appeal, it should be noted that its huge profits were aided by both higher ticket prices and wider global distribution than existed when *Star Wars* was originally released in 1977. In terms of the number of tickets sold, *Titanic* still trails *Star Wars* (though *Gone with*

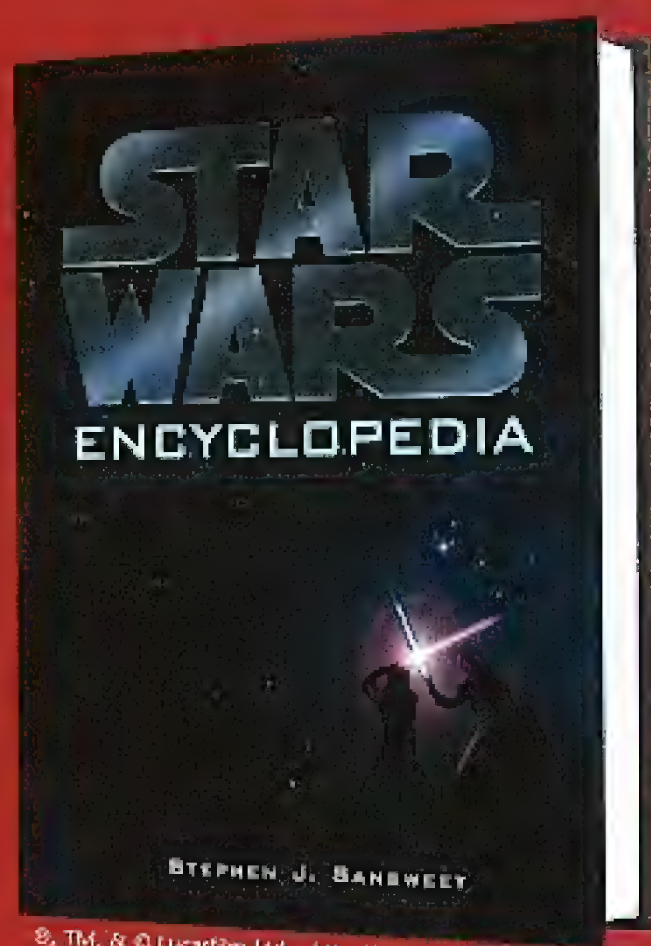
the Wind tops that list).

So will Cameron be taking out a similar ad next year to congratulate Lucas on Episode I's success? We at the Insider certainly hope so—if for no other reason than we'd love to see another drawing like this one! ☺



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Ann C. Crispin's Han Solo Trilogy Concludes

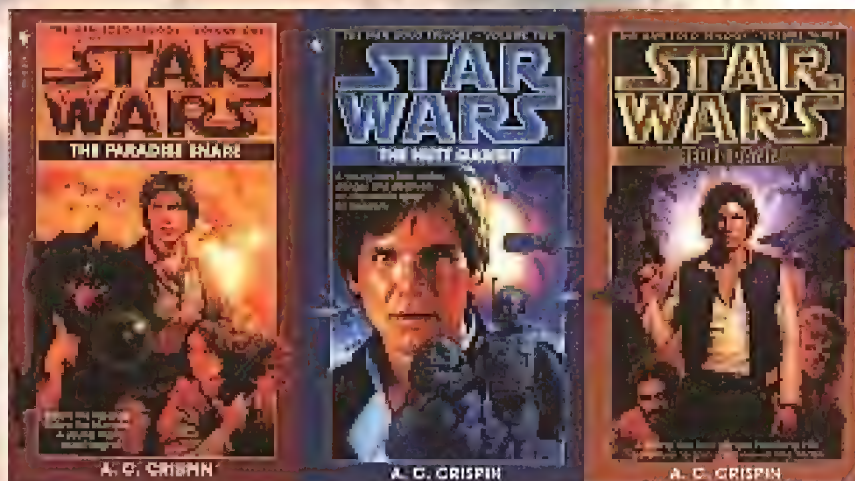
When Bantam released *Rebel Dawn*, the third and final installment of author Ann C. Crispin's Han Solo novel trilogy, the occasion marked not only a cause for celebration for fans of *Star Wars* fiction, but also the culmination of a long journey for Crispin, who spent two years immersing herself in Han's world after being asked to take on the prestigious project.

The journey began as soon as she agreed to take on the trilogy. Crispin told the *Insider*, "This box arrives at my house from Lucasfilm," she recalled. "It was filled with books—the

Brian Daley novels, the *Star Wars* West End Games books. There was a chronology and things of that sort. *The Essential Guide to Characters* was in there, too. As the weeks went on, I was provided with notes from the folks at Lucasfilm as guidance for the beginning of my

work on the Han Solo trilogy novels."

Fans were treated to the first fruits of her labors with the release of *The Paradise Snare* last summer, and further enticed by the trilogy's



second book, *The Hunt Gambit*. But *Star Wars* readers first got to know Crispin (who was already famous for bringing her talents to the worlds of *Star Trek* and *V*) through her short stories "Play it again, Figrin D'an" and "Skin Deep," from the Bantam anthologies *Tales from the Mos*

Eisley Cantina and *Tales from Jabba the Hutt's Palace*, respectively.

Those stories helped convince Lucasfilm that Crispin was the right writer to shed light on the sketchy past of Solo, one of the *Star Wars* saga's most beloved but mysterious heroes. In her books, Crispin takes us through the many stages of Han's life and eventually explains how he became the hard-shelled smuggler who is

down on women and the Rebellion, yet afraid of Boba Fett, on the run from Jabba the Hutt, and nervous about seeing Lando once again.

It was Crispin's daunting assignment to flesh out the details that made Han Solo the character George Lucas envisioned. "It was a very tall order," Crispin said with a sigh. "At times it was like playing a puzzle where some of the pieces just would

not fit into the slot and you had to try to trim them and make them fit."

You can find out more about Solo's background in Ann Crispin's Han Solo trilogy, *The Paradise Snare*, *The Hunt Gambit*, and the just-released *Rebel Dawn*. ☺

Fox to Distribute new *Star Wars* Trilogy

Star Wars traditionalists can breathe a triumphant sigh of relief—each episode of the new prequel trilogy will definitely begin with the familiar Fox fanfare, just as in *Star Wars*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, and *Return of the Jedi*.

Lucasfilm Ltd. and 20th Century Fox jointly announced on April 2 that the two entertainment giants had officially joined forces on the first three episodes of the *Star Wars* saga, with Fox handling worldwide theatrical and video distribution for all three installments of the upcoming prequel trilogy, as well as gaining the right to broadcast Episode I on the company's Fox network.

Every major movie studio in Hollywood had expressed interest in distributing the three new films, which are being produced by

Lucasfilm. But in the end, George Lucas chose his old partner Fox, the studio that distributed the original trilogy and its *Special Edition*. Because of that successful relationship, Lucasfilm had promised Fox they would talk to them first about distributing the prequels, and Fox, which last year reaped major rewards with the trilogy re-release, clearly did not want to let the saga slip away.

"The biggest thrill of any motion picture executive is to touch greatness," said Fox Chairman and CEO Peter Chernin. "At 20th Century Fox, it has been a tremendous joy to have been a part of George Lucas' groundbreaking *Star Wars* trilogy. It is one of the privileges of my career that Fox will once again join George Lucas and Lucasfilm to bring the first three chapters in this incredible saga to the world."

Added Fox executive Tom Sherak, "*Star Wars* is a classic story that imparts values and themes that everyone can relate to. The saga is an important part of Fox's heritage and an intrinsic thread in our historic tapestry."

George Lucas said he was "delighted that we can continue our relationship with Fox through all six of the *Star Wars* films."

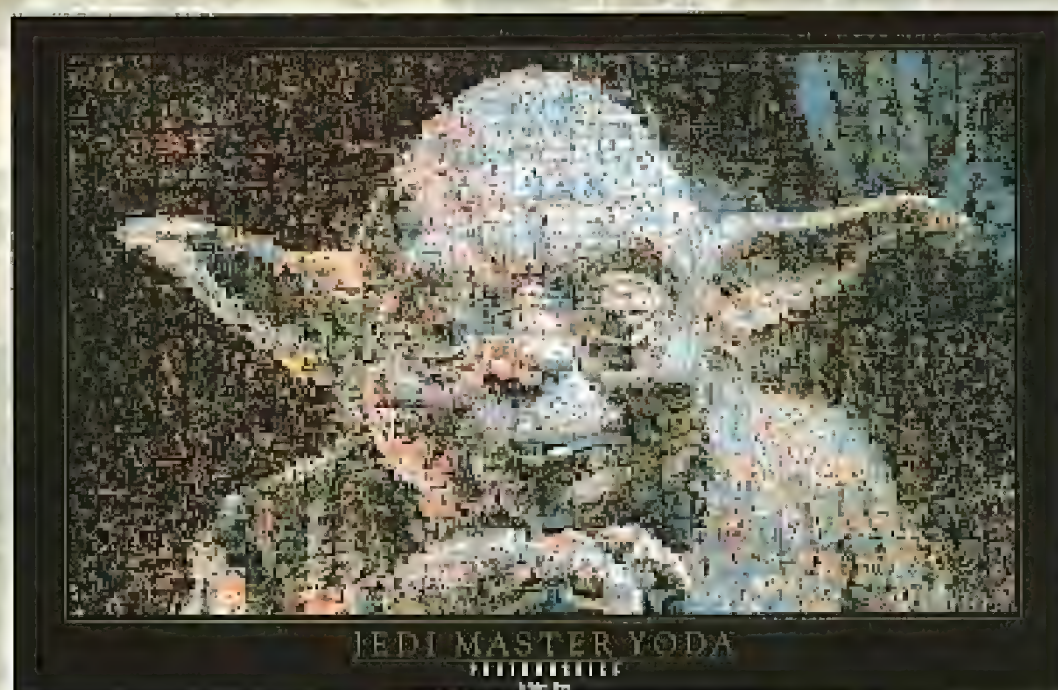
While the deal is no doubt a big-time score for Fox, and a shrewd, profitable move for Lucasfilm, perhaps the biggest winners may be the fans. Many could not imagine a new *Star Wars* movie that did not open with 20th Century Fox's traditional fanfare, drum roll and all. Indeed, the Fox logo and music seemed to be as much a part of *Star Wars* as the words "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away."

Now those concerns have been put to rest, and so have questions surrounding which studio would win the rights to put the saga back in theaters. 20th Century Fox will release Episode I of *Star Wars* in May, 1999. ☺

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London, England

Um, hello

As I jogged back from the gym I was saying just how blue the sky is today. The woman walking towards me avoided eye contact. Talking to yourself seems to be frowned on, even in London so I decided I'd better talk to you. I've done a good workout—apart from an embarrassing moment when Michael Jackson startled me. I was on the treadmill at the time—the sort of conveyor belt thing that causes exercise for the sake of exercise—a concept, usually in a wheeled format that amuses owners of small pet rodents (as opposed to actually amusing the rodents). I was on the larger version that allows you to run for miles without getting anywhere—story of my life. And there he was! The monitor suddenly came alive and pale-face MJ peered out from his latest video. I think he was smiling at me. I was so shocked I lost concentration for that vital second and shot off the back of the roller. Total loss of macho image as I stopped in a leggy tangle. Not watching MTV again! Or MUTV. I don't even like exercise but I'm trying to rehabilitate myself after a couple of ski accidents. The first was in Canada's very own Lake Louise. Figure of speech—the lake itself was frozen rather solid so I was forced onto the snow. Anyway, I went off piste by about three feet without noticing the five feet drop carved out by my second most favourite thing after Ewoks—snowboarders. So on my last ski trip, nursing my damaged knee, I flew to Colorado, mainly of course to appear on Good Morning Vail—the ultimate viewing experience and surely the zenith of my career (and one of the nicest TV programmes I have ever been on—the cameraman does all the weather and most of the interviews. High altitude/low budget). But I thought I might slide around on the snow a bit, to make the trip worthwhile and actually, skied more brilliantly (? Ed.) than usual—my left knee firmly held in place by a rather expensive construction of wheels and braces made of glass fibre, rubber and Vekro. Reminded me of a costume I once had in a movie. The knee brace was even more brilliant than my skiing and gave me total protection. But sadly I wasn't wearing it when I had my second ski accident back at London's own airport (see WC No 7 for more airport agro). It was caused by that other kind of conveyor belt—the luggage carousel—the type that new-wave sushi bars use (on a smaller scale) to move curious flaps of raw fish past equally uncooked customers. Suddenly that joyous moment arrived when my suitcase appeared round the bend—and still in one piece. I could just see it, in spite of the really dim people (pet hate of the week) (not, of course 'pet' as in rodent) who stand right up to the edge of the moving bags and obliterate everyone else's view. I long for them to trip forward and be belted into the distance through those rather odd black rubber doors, to disappear into the lost luggage department—for ever! (I feel better now). Anyway I snaked my way through, leaned over, reached and hefted my case towards the irritatingly mobile cart snapping at my ankles. I'd forgotten how much thermal underwear and bobble hats could weigh. The combination of angle and weight gave my lower back the kind of instant trauma normally caused by falling off the Empire State Building and landing face up on the top of a goal post. Or to put another way. Ouch!!

And here's something else that causes pain...



Incredibly Number Eleven of the Improved NEW **Wonder Column** *In the Insider from the Man Inside C-3PO*



Gosh!

I seem to be falling apart—knee damage, back damage (Brain? Ed). It must have something to do with being human. On the other hand it seems to happen to machines too—especially if **THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING** has anything to do with it. Perhaps it is some sort of cathartic (look it up) therapy for him. Or is it the dark side peeping through? We may never know. It started so innocently.

EXT. JUNDLAND WASTES DAY Obi-Wan, Luke and the camera discover Threepio lying on the sand, having lost his footing. His

dignity and an arm. (For more on arm loss, see **INT. CANTINA—LATER**). Sitting up into the frame, the brave droid demands to be left to his fate whilst the humans save themselves. This heroism cannot cover the style solecism (look it up, !!) of an empty left shoulder. A true victim of fashion. And for the actor concerned (me) an apparent victim of the surgeon's knife.

But no. Dismembering machines was fine but, after some consideration, **TMRFE** decided I could stay in one piece. Also I would only wear the front piece of the costume torso, allowing my left arm to be twisted up my back in the position normally adopted when trying to scratch a rather irritating and inaccessible itch between the shoulder blades. My right arm and

shoulder were trying to hold the whole thing in place across my chest, hard when the art department, to complete the look of violent disassembly, added a fake shoulder. It looked convincing—a greatly wired ball and socket affair, well actually just the socket (or the ball, I can't remember which). I do recall that it was immensely heavy. A small webbing strap was holding the costume and me together—almost. Due to the new appendage I was wearing, a great force (small F) was dragging the whole thing away from my neck, leaving a rather unconvincing gap—a problem which the ever-helpful art department solved with their usual flair. They chucked handfuls of sand at me. It did the job—sort of, so we did the scene—sort of.



Please, take my arm.



Hurry, they're trying to overtake.

so we did it again and they chucked more sand—lots more sand, which dribbled down inside and ended up in places it is just not polite to scratch—even for a droid.

I should have taken the hint. ESB! I turned the page in *Cloud City* (I of course mean that I turned the page relating to **INT. CORRIDOR CLOUD CITY DAY** in my script). Shock Horror! I was out of a job and the film only half over! "No please don't get up!" **BANG!** Not just an arm! **TOTAL DISMEMBERMENT!** Was this it? My epitaph, a glove thrown down in an empty room? But no! I read on. Clearly public outrage had forced **TMRPE** to redress the problem. I was to be reassembled—by a Wookiee—as individuals, charming but as a race, not noted for their surgical skills.

You must have stood at an airport watching someone's luggage (hopefully not your own) exposed on the conveyor in an exploded condition carefully created by the art department of the Luggage Smashers Association by dropping it from the top of the Empire State Building (see above). I know how that bag feels. The awful indignity as Chewie grabbed my assorted bits on their way to the burning fiery furnace and rescued me from a death worse than fate. Mind you, that fate wasn't exactly a doddle.

Naturally the story line couldn't last for long with-

out Threepio and hence it was that he was bagged-up and carried by that intellectual giant Chewbacca—well, giant anyway. The indignities of being strapped to his back in the movie were only equalled by the indignities of being strapped to his back in real life (well not real life as we know it but as near as you can get on a film set) (Get on with it, Ed!). In long shot Threepio was indeed a bag o' bits, animated by



Bad hair day, or WHAT!

fishing line (state-of-the-art or what!) attached to either end of Chewie's blaster—tilt that weapon up for a head turn to the right, tilt down for that glance to the left. Easy! Especially since I merely had to watch from behind the camera.

Less easy for the close-ups but hey! What the camera doesn't look at, the audience can't see. So, Camera in low position pointing slightly up. Me in gold only from the waist up (totally decent from the waist down due to a pair of jeans) and actually roped like some fugitive steer to the back of the Wookiee. **TOTAL INDIGNITY**—for me too. Especially since my feet rested on a set of wheels. I had become a human luggage cart. I could earn a living at any airport I chose. To be honest it was rather easier than walking around in the costume. I tried to

get all the future scenes shot in this way but they said Doris had been complaining so they'd put the wheels back on the tea trolley. (See **WC No. 6** for more tea and Doris).

Some time later in the safety and serenity of the Falcon's work bay,

Threepio gets the divided attention of his insensitive but loyal friend Antoo Detoo. Seated on a cargo chest I nursed my left leg in my arms, a position made possible, not by some amazing demonstration of yogic technique but more by the fact that **TMRPE** had had my leg chopped off. Some feet away Antoo clutched my right foot, which would have been fine if it had actually been attached to my right leg at the time. (bit of a play on words there—feet, foot. Get it?) (No! Ed.)

PROBLEM OF THE DAY II: How to achieve these physical effects with me inside the costume. "Easy," said **TMRPE**, eyeing a chainsaw. But, after some consideration, he decided I could stay in one piece. So I stood in a hole cut in the top of the cargo chest, clad in gold only from the waist up (totally decent from the waist down due to a pair of jeans) (don't you love these copy/paste keys). Wiggling carefully I managed to end up on my knees with my feet protruding through another hole in the back of the box. From the side it looked really stupid but what the camera doesn't look at, the audience can't see, so with Threepio's fake bits and pieces stuck to my front it looked fine. And the bits also hid any gaps, so no need to chuck handfuls of sand at me this



KOSMIC KRAZES No. 8732
**LET'S DO
THE
TYDIRIUM
SHUFFLE**



OH my aching back



time. I thought the art department looked rather disappointed. The only problem for me—I was now locked into the scenery. It really is quite hard to bond with your fellow actors or crew members when you are part of the décor. I tried and did rather well I thought until tea time (see above). Suddenly I was alone kneeling there like an obsessive penitent from the planet Madmonk. I realized that being a piece of furniture is just not fun. Oh well, I'm sure I'll get my reward—some day.

But meanwhile, back in **CLOUD CITY: DETENTION CELL**, the flea bitten fur-ball was doing his best—unfortunately. It just wasn't good enough. **TMRFE** had decreed that Threepio's head should be fitted backward. Having eyes in the back of your head is one thing; having the rest of you face there, quite another.

PROBLEM OF THE DAY II:

How to achieve this physical effect with me inside the costume. Step forward the ever crafty art department. Head in hand (my head, their hand) (actually Threepio's head, their hands) they surgically removed the posterior cranial matter (I watch *ER* too, the TV show) (as opposed to *E.R. II*, the Queen of England show). Where was I? Oh yes. They sur-

gically removed the posterior cranial matter. That is, they chopped the back off. Me in gold only from the waist up (totally decent from the waist down due to a pair of jeans) (Will this never end? Ed.), I could now wear Threepio's face on the back of my head with my face sticking out of the back of his. (You may want to read that last sentence again) (No thank you, Ed.).

Just two little problems as I lay draped

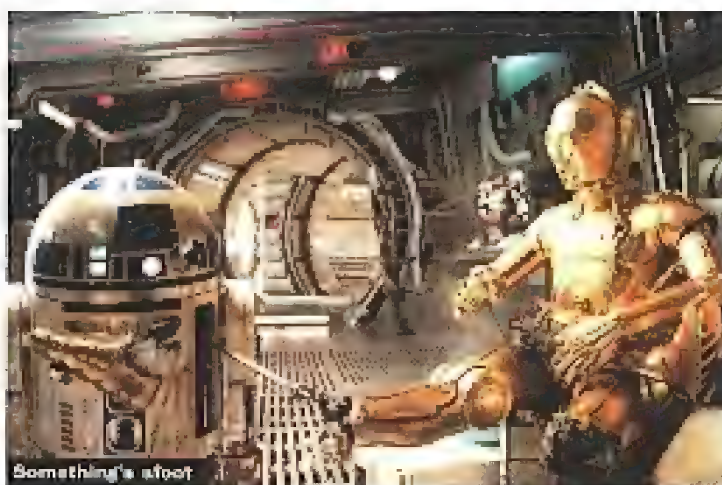
facial appendage tended to come into view of the camera, when I inadvertently looked too far to the left or right, I could see **TMRFE** eyeing the mini chain saw again. But fortunately the ever-

resourceful

art department leapt to my rescue. Rolls of adhesive gold tape were rolled in and plastered in strips on the offending parts of my face. (You mean the whole thing, Ed.). The problem was solved—sort of. Look very carefully at the side of Threepio's head next to Chewie. See? You can actually catch a brief look at something rather odd—my nose covered in gold tape. Truly, a fashion statement. Not!

Which left the one remaining problem. The sticky tape made my nose itch like crazy but given the restrictions of my arm movement I couldn't get near it—even though it was a relatively polite place to scratch.

Of course fur is a rea... Oh I just realised Mickey's not here*. Hope I'm not late.



Something's afoot

over Chewie's knee. I could only appear to look at him by looking in the opposite direction. This problem was naturally solved through using my superior intelligence and doing retakes when I forgot and looked the wrong way.

Problem II was caused by my nose protruding from the back of Threepio's head. Normally shielded behind the golden dome, this

ANOTHER HEALTH WARNING
by previously noted
**THE WONDER COLUMN IS TOO PRECIOUS TO
APPEAR IN EVERY ISSUE OF THE INSIDER.**

Subject named back. Strongly advises every other issue.
(No one knows)
I'll tell it with my story

PS Confession time. Some months ago I was invited to ILM to see where the real filmmaking happens. I had the best time, playing with the fantastic new vehicles and other glamas for the new movie. Didn't drop one of them! BUT I didn't drop them a thank-you note either. Nor for a delicious lunch. Nor for the framed photo souvenir of me and the gang. Is it too late? Here goes. NagisaGrantHowieLaurenJohnBillieBrianKeithMikeJoanMarkNelsonMikeDannyCaroRWendyKimandsonellveforgettensorry! THANK YOU.

PaS Nearly got drowned under the ferry on the way back from ILM to SF. Our skipper decided to tough it out on a collision course with another boat. Stupid really. It was an ocean-going tug. Real macho-type boat. Realising I was on board he only gave way at the last moment. Perhaps he's on the dark side.

P perhaps he's stupid

sPPS About to depart for France—on a temporary basis since they're an odd bunch. There, every thing has a gender, generally masculine or feminine. Tugboat (above) is masculine, as is pencil sharpener. Okay. But La Force? Feminine??? Oohh La La!

SSS Perhaps I won't go after all.

Sss* So excited at thought of foreign travel, I accidentally got into the bath with Mickey. He's currently drying out but will he go slow or worse, rust? News bulletins will follow. The nation waits.

Pp But meanwhile, how can I tell the time?

Sssss The French for mouse is *la souris*. Feminine too! Better not tell him.

Ps erious I am most concerned that certain Web pages and dealers are suggesting that requests for my autograph may be made to KCM in London. This is not the case. I am also very aware of the number of forgeries of my autograph being sold. I make very few appearances and unless you see me signing, please be careful and avoid disappointment.

Ps ensational! I do hope to attend the **wondrous** DragonCon in Atlanta this year.

ppps More guilt. Some months ago I received ace gifts from the folks at Wizard Press. Amongst which, a fab silver yo-yo with A.D. inscribed in big letters. Only problem when I'm 'walking the dog' I can't see them, so tend to forget who I am. Fortunately it makes a great paperweight too. A big (late) THANK YOU, Wizard.

SSssssssssssssssss Every word of the WC goes past the eagle eyes of hot-shot-Lucaslawyer Chris Reggie (lucky chap) who makes sure I don't say anything that insults the intelligence of someone likely to sue LFL into hyperspace. Told me reading the WC is one of the few laughs he gets. When lawyers laugh—we're all in trouble.

Pppppppps A surprise gift from HR VPL trying to make up for the attack on my person by his body guard Mad Max I (see WC No. 10). A motorised miniature model C-3PO. Not as good as the original of course, but not bad. It came with a certificate of authenticity numbered 002. Who has 001?

PaSa HR, I think we should be told.

You Write:

THE STAR WARS INSIDER
PO Box 111000, Aurora, Colorado 80042.

STEVE FROMLING Westfield NJ

"Sorry to break it to you but in the Star Wars Monopoly Classic Theatre Edition they did just fine capturing you in pewter (See YW WC 10) Though it does make sense that they left you out of the original edition, they probably assumed leaving the best character out would help ensure sales on the second edition..." Steve how can you be so cynical! The truth is... The People spoke! AD

SCOTT WENDT Sacramento CA

I'm glad to hear I'm "... high quality pewter." But in future, please call Steve Fromling re SWMLAD

VICTORIA FLORIO Cincinnati OH

Call Scott and Steve at once. "... your pewter figure is the best one yet." I suppose you mean Threepio's. If only people said that about mine! AD

ALEX NEWBORN Muscle Shoals AL

What an interesting letter concerning

TINWCITFTMC No10 and "...the scatological practices of Lucas bestiary..." If only I owned a dictionary! No slight was intended towards your mother in the discussion of dawback "do-do" since I don't know it was her nickname (do-do). I have always respectfully called her Mrs Newborn. And concerning 'Keep Your Kosmos Klean,' do-da/poodoo—it's all the same to ban-thas. Some people just have smutty minds! AD

KIRSTEN LEYNDYKE Battleground MI

"... a really cool person and your WC is neat-o-rific! I enjoy reading about what happened on the set. And so forth. Can you start a sentence with and?...?" Certainly you can. But—"neat-o-rific"??? AD

SONUM MEHTA Yardley PA

"Do you know anybody who knows the amount of time the 'ang' in 'A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away' represents and... is it 'Oh, switch o/ff' (with comma) or 'Oh switch off' (without comma)? You tell me. After all, it is your line." In your case, Sonum, I think just Switch Off would do! AD

JEREMY STORLY Aberdeen SD

I have several friends who claim to be huge,

huge SW fans, but have never read your column. How can I help them to see the light?" Simple. Switch it on and then turn their heads in that direction whilst pointing at it with a large sign saying "light". But what has that got to do with reading the WC? AD

ROSS MAY Sask, Canada

"... I think you did a much better job at being C-3PO than Skeeter.... But how did you fit in the suit when Threepio was broken? I can't imagine, Ross. Maybe when I find out I'll write about it in a WC—or as we now call it, TINWCITFTMC. By the way, who is Skeeter? AD

BRANDON BOULAIS Plattsburgh CA

"What use to make of your C-3PO talking pen that doesn't talk any more. Simple. Write with it." Thank you Brandon. Very helpful. There's a word for people like you. Actually, two words! AD

JENNIFER STARK Kearny NJ

In the WC "... I have a slight problem trying to figure out what some of those abbreviations mean..." I have a slight problem too, Jennifer but I don't think this is the place to discuss it. AD

an interview
with EPISODE I star

Samuel L.

JEDI Jackson

BY SCOTT CHERNOFF

When Quentin Tarantino's landmark *Pulp Fiction* hit theaters in 1994, it was easy to think that Samuel L. Jackson—who played Jules, the eloquent hitman who has a spiritual epiphany—came out of nowhere. His performance was so electrifying, so engaging, so powerful, that most audiences emerged from the experience convinced they had seen a star born.

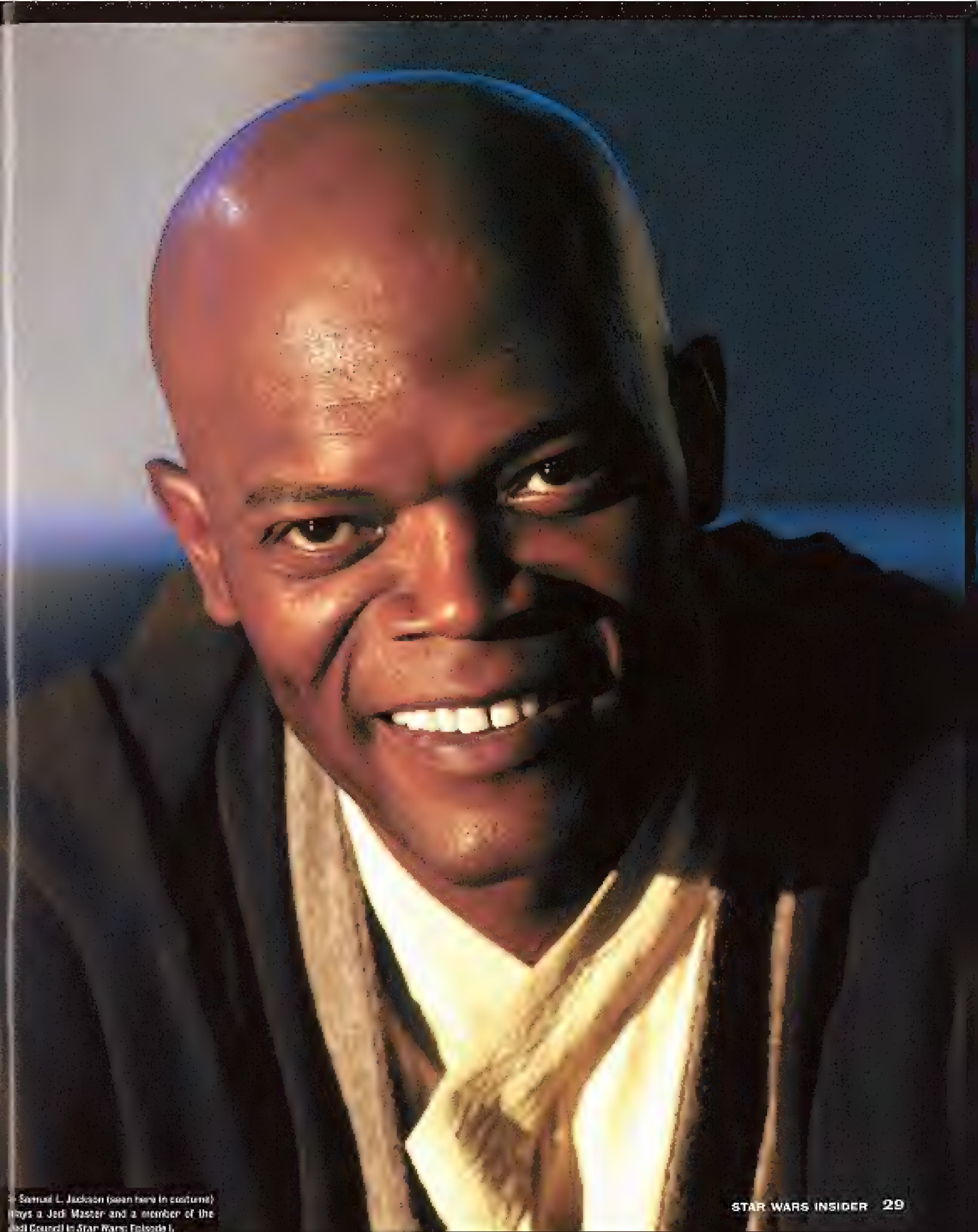
But the truth was that Samuel L. Jackson had been right in front of us for years, albeit with few opportunities to showcase his incredible talents. Indeed, before *Pulp Fiction*, Jackson had small roles in some of the best-loved movies of the '80s and '90s: *Goodfellas*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Ragtime*, *True Romance*, *Coming to America*, *Jurassic Park*. There was *Amre*, *Menace II Society*, *Sea of Love*, *School Daze*, and *Pariah*

Games (with Harrison Ford), and more plays than you can shake a stick at.

In 1991, the actor, a New York City native, finally started to gain wide attention with his extraordinary performance in Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever* (1991), which earned him a special award at France's Cannes Film Festival. His character, a crack addict named Gator Purify, veered from hilarious to frightening, but

Jackson also made him sadly human.

Yet it wasn't until *Pulp Fiction*—which afforded him one of his most interesting and complex characters, as well as an Academy Award-winning script chockfull of juicy, beguiling monologues—that Jackson had a chance to really show his stuff. Since then, Jackson has used his newfound stardom to successfully straddle the line between big-time Hollywood blockbusters and off-beat independent fare, and in the process he's become one of the biggest stars on the silver screen. >>



4 Samuel L. Jackson (seen here in costume) plays a Jedi Master and a member of the Jedi Council in *Star Wars: Episode I*.

Since *Pulp Fiction*, Jackson has turned in diverse, compelling performances in *Fresh*, *Jackie Brown* (which re-teamed him with Tarantino), *187*, *A Time to Kill*, *Hard Eight*, *Tree's Lounge*, *Losing Isaiah*, and *Die Hard: With a Vengeance*. He also produced 1997's most profitable American independent film, the acclaimed *Eve's Bayou*, in which he also starred.

You'd think that with a résumé like that, Jackson would hardly have to go asking for jobs. Yet that's just what the actor did, in interview after interview, to get his role in Episode I of the upcoming *Star Wars* prequel trilogy. In 1996, Jackson told the *Insider* he was an enormous fan of *Star Wars* and said, "I'm trying to find George Lucas now so I can be in his prequel." (Wouldn't you have done the same if you had his clout?)

So now that Samuel L. Jackson's dream has come true, the *Insider* returned to chat with the actor about the latest powerhouse entry in his filmography.



» Samuel L. Jackson as Jules in *Pulp Fiction* (above) and with Matthew McConaughey in *A Time To Kill* (right).

up the first day it was showing, got down to the theater. There was no line—just a bunch of heads out there, hanging out, waiting for the movie to start. We got in, everybody sat down, just waiting for it to happen, and it was everything we wanted it to be. I don't remember if I

Then it must have been quite a feeling to be welcomed into that universe for Episode I.

I was awed. It's pretty awesome to just show up on the set. It's something that you've always imagined. You're there, and all of the sudden, you're in it. >>

Just an opportunity to go to the Ranch was cool for me. I rolled on up there, and we sat down and talked and had a great old time. George is cool.

Did you really win your role in Episode I by announcing to the world that you were a huge *Star Wars* fan and would do anything to get a part in the new trilogy?

I guess so. You know, you do those interviews, and people always ask you that question, "Are there any directors that you haven't worked with that you want to work with?" I remembered George was making these movies, and I started to say George Lucas. I said it to the guy hosting this TV show in London when they were there in pre-production [on the prequel], and somebody got word to them.

Then when I was in Vallejo last year shooting *Sphere*, I got this call that said, "Well you're close by—you should go by the Ranch and visit George. He hears you're interested in the movies." And I go, "Yeah, no problem!" Just an opportunity to go the Ranch was cool for me. I rolled on up there, and we sat down and talked, and had a great old time. George is cool.

Is it true you saw *Star Wars* the day it opened in 1977?

Well, I was waiting for it, because I had seen all these trailers at the theater, so I just got

sat through the next screening or what.

And you remained a big fan over the years?

Totally. I just kept keeping up with it.

What is it about *Star Wars* that you loved so much?

Well it was new, it was different, it was everything I had always wanted a film about space to be—you know, guys with lightsabers, really fast-moving planes, the costumes—everything was just right. It was like somebody had stepped into my mind and had taken everything that I wanted to happen and made it happen.

Having seen all those old pirate movies, all of a sudden, here were guys sword-fighting again, with lightsabers. I'm a huge Errol Flynn fan, and I watched all of *Commander Cody* and a bit of *Star Trek* and all those programs, but it wasn't the same for me. It was missing something, and George found all those things that were missing, and made it happen.



Courtesy of Miramax



Courtesy of Warner Brothers Pictures

George only gave me the six pages I was in. It was just enough to pique my interest in what happened before and what's going to happen afterwards. I have no idea what the story is or what goes on. I'll be as in the dark as everybody else when I walk into the theater.

glad to be here—I'm not going to push it, I'm just gonna do my thing and stay cool.

Would you ever accept a part in a film without reading its entire script under non-*Star Wars* circumstances?

No, not at all. No way. But what do you expect? You expect a *Star Wars* movie, and you're gonna be part of it.

Do you know if you'll return for *Episode II* or *III*?

I don't know if anybody did a sequel deal. Of course, I don't know anything about any of

It was everything I had wanted a film about space to be—you know, guys with lightsabers, really fast-moving planes, the costumes—everything was just right.

Did the new stories excite you as much as the original *Star Wars*?

I don't actually know that much about the movie. It's incredible. I have no idea what happened before I got there or what happened after I left. I was only there for four days, and

It's pretty bizarre having been a part of it and having people ask me questions about it and then going, "You know, I really don't know that much about it." They're always amazed—"Come on, he actually didn't let you read the script?" No, he didn't, and I didn't bother him about it. I'm just

that. I did this one, my character didn't die. There's a possibility of me coming back—cool.



▲ Samuel L. Jackson with Robert DeNiro in *Jackie Brown* (above), with Bruce Willis in *Die Hard* with a Vengeance (right top), and with John Travolta and Harvey Keitel in *Pulp Fiction* (right bottom).



Courtesy of 20th Century Fox



Courtesy of Miramax



» From Left to Right: Samuel L. Jackson in *Sphere*; with Robert DeNiro in *Jurassic Park*; and in *White Sands*.

Well, since your character hangs out with Jedi Master Yoda, I suppose I owed to a possibility of you coming back even if your character *did* die.

Even if I did, yeah!

What's it like working with Yoda?

It's like working with a great actor. He was there, totally involved, great facial expressions, great line reading, totally cool.

Does Frank Oz (the director/juggalo who performs Yoda) disappear when you're working with Yoda?

Yeah, he's not there. He's there, but he's not there—Yoda's there, not Frank. It's pretty special the way it happens. It's great because all of a sudden they'll say action and Frank gets in there and Yoda kind of sits up and does all this stuff, and then when George says cut, Frank takes his hand out and it kind of slumps over. But the guys that are operating his ears and eyes still have their things on, so his ears are still moving and his eyes are going, and he's kind of slumped over like he's either hung over or not feeling well or something. It's like, "Man, somebody help Yoda!"

Being such a fan, was it difficult to calm down and focus on the work?

Not really. As soon as George says action, things just start to happen. You flow into the scene and try to give it all the reality you can give it, considering what's there—I actually met actors that I wouldn't know if they walked into my house today, because these guys were covered in make-up. There was one guy that I affectionately referred to as "Calimari," because that's what he kind of looked like. And there was another guy that looked like a giant Ihasa apso, and there was a guy with a duck on his head—I don't know what that was. You try to ignore that—that's the norm. You just go ahead and do your thing.

Has your experience making *Star Wars* differed from your memories of other big movies you've made like *Sphere* or *Jurassic Park*?

It actually had more of a low-budget feel to it than big-budget. There were none of the huge star trappings. There were no huge trailers around, I guess because we were in Britain, and there's a very different atmosphere around British sets. There's not the elaborate craft ser-

vice stuff going on. There's not a lot of P.A.s running around with their heads cut off—just kind of a calm that's there, the British way of stiff upper lip, no panic. It was totally laid-back there.

What was the toughest part of shooting *Episode I* for you?

The biggest thing for me was getting over the awe of being there, and making sure that I was doing something that was honest—not trying to pretend to be in a *Star Wars* movie, and trying to relax and just play naturally, and make it happen. George was satisfied, so I guess I did OK.

It's the kind of situation where you know you're keyed up in a certain kind of way because you're doing something that's interesting and exciting to you. You don't wanna overplay it because you think that it should be done a certain way, and I tried not to go in with any preconceived notion of what I was going to do and how I was going to do it. But I don't know if I achieved that. It's a strange sort of feeling for me, because I'm always pretty sure of what I'm doing.

How long did you have with the script to prepare before you were shooting?

Oh, I got it the day I showed up. It's not like

...there was another guy that looked like a giant Ihasa apso, and there was a guy with a duck on his head—I don't know what that was.



Courtesy of Miramax



Courtesy of Warner Brothers Pictures

» It's the kind of situation where you know you're keyed up in a certain kind of way because you're doing something that's interesting and exciting to you.

they were going to send me the pages early just in case I changed my mind and I'm gonna publish them.

So you didn't even know who your character was until you showed up?

Exactly.

How much time do you normally spend preparing for a role?

Usually, you have months, or at least some weeks before you have to do it. So this was unusual. It definitely added an intensity and a focus to it. Hey, he didn't hire me because I couldn't do it, I guess. He had enough faith in the fact that I could get it, come in, and be ready to go.

Did they give you any information or back-story for your character once you were there?

Nope. [Laughs.] Nope. None whatsoever.

Did you give yourself a back-story?

I didn't have time to go through it that much. I dealt with what I was doing and started to think a little bit about how he got to be in that place that he was in, why he was there, why he was that close to Yoda, or why they had

so many conversations and not him and other people. And I came up with some relevant facts that would relate to the stories that I did know, the things that came after and the kind of people that they are.

So you drew on the other Star Wars movies for inspiration?

Oh, of course.

Did your experience as producer of Eve's *Bayou* give you any insight into how full George Lucas' plate was during shooting?

Not necessarily. George is a whole different kind of entity in that he's writing it, he had the concept, he's directing it, he's going to work with the editor—George is a fabulous editor. He has a whole other kind of insight into the process than I have. I was just kind of there [on Eve's *Bayou*] overseeing and learning the job, learning how to read a budget sheet and figure out the things that I needed to do to make the next day work or keep the crew happy. So much goes on in being a producer.

Will you do it again?

Oh yeah, I'm definitely doing it again. I've got a couple projects that are in development,

and hopefully one will be ready to go by the end of the year.

Do you have any favorite movies you've done—or are they all your favorites?

No, no, they're not all my favorites! I actually really like all the action films. I had a great time doing *Die Hard*. I had a fabulous time doing *Long Kiss Goodnight*. I'm really proud of *Fresh* and *187*, and when I think of *Pulp Fiction* and *Jackie Brown*, those are great times. Quentin is such a fun filmmaker, his sets are great places to be.

What's the difference between a Quentin Tarantino set and a George Lucas set?

It's hard for me to say because I was only on George's set for four days, and I enjoyed it in a different kind of way because it's awesome just to sit there and look around and see who you're around and what's going on and know that you're a part of this very special thing. Plus you're also wondering, "I wonder what the rest of this set's going to look like when they finish putting the rest of the images in it."

But a Quentin set is like going to high school and being with all your best friends all day long, and there are no teachers around to tell you what to do and what not to do. So you end up laughing and doing the stuff that you

» continued on page 80

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fail you,
my Lord...*

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Exclusive Two-Pack

JAWA TRADER

NUMBER 38

Oola & Salacious Crumb

The *Star Wars* Fan Club's 1998 exclusive action figure is the Incredible Oola and Salacious Crumb two-pack. Finally these two great characters from *Return of the Jedi* are available as action figures. These two figures have some incredible sculpting as seen on Kenner's *Power of the Force* action figure line. Oola and Salacious Crumb will never be available in stores—they can only be ordered here. The two-pack has a great, four color window box for display. Oola comes with cloth leggings and chain accessories. Round out your action figure collection with this one-of-a-kind exclusive collectible. Pre-orders being taken now for figures shipping in August 1998. We will only be accepting pre-orders from *Star Wars* Fan Club Members until July 1st, 1998, when ordering opens to the general public.

LKN142 \$12.00 Special Shipping Charge per set ordered: \$2.50

If additional items are ordered, calculate shipping cost without this item included.





Obi-Wan Kenobi Cookie Jar

This is, without a doubt one of the greatest likenesses of Obi-Wan Kenobi ever sculpted. It's not just a cookie jar, but a *Star Wars* collectible of the highest order. You won't believe the incredible sculpting detail. Each ceramic jar stands approximately 16" high and is hand-painted from top to bottom. Comes numbered with a certificate of authenticity. Manufactured by Star Jars, a company world renowned for their high quality collectibles. Once they're gone, this piece is sure to command a premium on the secondary market.

LCJ1 \$275.00



Boba Fett Miniature Helmet

The infamous bounty hunter's Mandalorian armored helmet has a macrobinocular viewplate, motion and sound sensors, and a broadband antenna. This 45% scale replica has die cast metal parts, authentic helmet markings, a detailed interior, and is removable from Imperial base. Perfect for display on desk or bookshelf. Over 5" tall. LMHS \$59.95



Dewback Patrol

From world-renowned illustrator Dave Dorman comes Dewback Patrol limited edition lithograph. Measuring an oversized 32" x 14" plus a 2" matting and framing border. Dewback Patrol is printed in glorious color on archival art paper. Limited to only 1,500 signed and numbered prints.

LP60 \$45.00



Cantina 20th Anniversary Toast Poster

Insider artist Tsuneo Sando does it again with this amazing painting of the *Star Wars* cantina denizens raising their glasses in honor of *Star Wars*' 20th Anniversary. Printed on high quality poster stock, this poster measures 17" x 36" and is available exclusively through the Fan Club. LPS7 \$14.95



Boba Fett Solid Plate Framed Lithograph Limited Edition of 500

Computer and airbrush artist John Taylor Dismukes has created a fine art lithograph from this classic Al Williamson comic illustration. The lithograph is printed on acid-free stock using a unique printing that enhances the airbrush effect. Each one is signed by Dismukes, and comes with a certificate of authenticity. It is framed in black mica moulding, and the finished size is 29 1/2" x 29 1/2". Only 500 will be made. Canadian and Foreign orders subject to drop shipping fees. LP74 \$269.95



Boba Fett Deluxe Replica

The galaxy's most feared bounty hunter is now available life-size! The stunning, full-size fiberglass replica features all the components of Boba Fett's Mandalorian battle armor, including gray jumpsuit, wrist gauntlets, distinctive chest plate, spiked boots, tommy cape, braided Wookiee scalp, blaster rifle, and ultra-cool jet pack! From the tip of his antenna to the bottom of his scuffed boots, the Deluxe Boba Fett Replica stands over six feet tall. No one in the galaxy has ever captured the imposing bounty hunter, but now you can bring him to your home or office as a spectacular display piece. Requires \$500 non-refundable deposit. Canadian and Foreign orders subject to drop shipping fees. LLC21 \$4500.00

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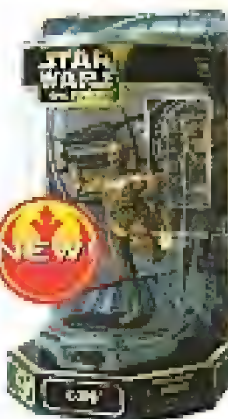
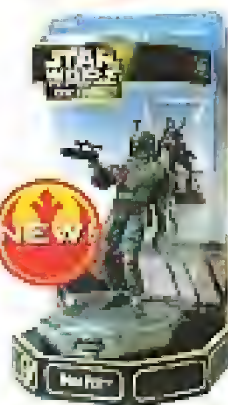
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Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition Posters Gold Card Set Edition of 1,997.

This beautiful commemoration of the Special Edition comes with all three movie posters reproduced as 24k gold photo etchings created from a unique photo imaging process. Cards are encased in an acrylic holder and come with black vacuum-formed jewel case gift boxes. Each set is individually numbered.

LLC26 \$225.00



Epic Force Figures

Each new Epic Force figure is approximately 6" tall and comes with a background and a base that has full 360 degree rotation. These incredibly detailed figures are meticulously painted and feature famous poses from the Star Wars trilogy. Collect them all!

LKN104	Epic Force Boba Fett	\$19.95
LKN102	Epic Force Darth Vader	\$19.95
LKN108	Epic Force C-3PO	\$19.95
LKN103	Epic Force Luke Skywalker	\$19.95



A Australian Pizza Hut Cup and Figurine Set

This ultra rare set of plastic cups and figurines was made available on a strictly limited basis by Australian Pizza Huts in 1995. Now they are for sale in the U.S. for the first time. The four characters included are Darth Vader, Chewbacca, C-3PO, and R2-D2. Only very limited quantities of this special item exist and could sell out at any time. First come first served.

LCUP2 \$27.95



Tomart's Guide To Worldwide Star Wars Collectibles: 2nd Edition

Tomart and Steve Sansweet team up to give you the Star Wars collector's bible. Out of print for almost two years, the ultimate price guide is back with more items, more pages, and more color photos! Calling this a "must" for Star Wars collectors is only stating the obvious. Get yours now and see what your collection is worth. Hardcover Edition now available! This edition comes with 40 color pages with over 200 images of unproduced Kenner Star Wars items never seen before. Every toy you have heard rumors about is here. You won't find this in stores. Limited amount, available first come, first served.

LBK101	Softcover	\$29.95
LBK114	Hardcover	\$79.95

◀ R2-D2 Collectible Phone

This replica of R2-D2 lights up, swivels its head, and makes authentic R2-D2 sound effects when the phone rings! Each phone is FCC approved with pulse/tone features, switchable ringer, and redial function. Standing over 6" the R2-D2 phone makes a fun, collectible gift for any Star Wars fan.

LPHONE1 \$99.95

▼ Lucasfilm Promotional Postcard Set

This set of 8, full-color postcards was issued strictly as a promotional item by Lucasfilm, but now a limited amount is being made available exclusively through the Jawa Trader. Each card depicts different an developed for Star Wars wearable products, including a great Anime-style Star Wars logo scene. The perfect gift, and one you won't find anywhere else. LPM25 \$3.95



EXCLUSIVE

OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY
5:45am – 10:15pm, MST!
TOLL FREE! 1-800-878-3326

BEDDING & TOWELS

Star Wars Bedding:

- LHF32 Dark Side Twin Sheet Set \$30.00
- LHF33 Dark Side Full Sheet Set \$48.95
- LHF36 Dark Side Twin Comforter \$49.95
- LHF37 Dark Side Full Comforter \$59.95
- LHF34 Dark Side Twin Comforter/Set with bedskirt & shams \$94.95
- LHF35 Dark Side Full Comforter/Set with bedskirt & shams \$134.95

- LHF41 Imperial Forces Twin Blanket \$39.95
- LHF42 Imperial Forces Full Blanket \$40.95

Star Wars Drapery:

Put the finishing touches on your Star Wars room with these beautiful drapes from West-point Stevens. Fits windows up to 50" wide. Rods not included.

- LHF26 Vehicle Diagram Rod Pocket Drape 84" x 84" \$44.95
- LHF27 Vehicle Diagram Rod Pocket Drape 84" x 63" \$34.95
- LHF28 Vehicle Diagram Rod Valance 84" x 15" \$19.95
- LHF29 Character Study Rod Pocket Drape 84" x 84" \$44.95
- LHF30 Character Study Rod Pocket Drape 84" x 63" \$34.95
- LHF31 Character Study Rod Valance 84" x 15" \$19.95

Not Shown

- LHF44 Character Study Twin Comforter Set \$94.95
- LHF45 Character Study Full Comforter Set \$134.95
- LHF46 Vehicle Diagram Comforter Twin Set \$94.95
- LHF47 Vehicle Diagram Comforter Full Set \$134.95
- LHF48 Character Study Sham-Standard \$19.95
- LHF49 Vehicle Diagram Sham-Standard \$19.95
- LHF50 Dark Side Sham-Standard \$19.95
- LHF51 Character Study Twin Bedskirt \$29.95
- LHF52 Character Study Full Bedskirt \$34.95
- LHF53 Vehicle Diagram Twin Bedskirt \$29.95
- LHF54 Vehicle Diagram Full Bedskirt \$34.95
- LHF55 Dark Side Twin Bedskirt \$29.00
- LHF56 Dark Side Full Bedskirt \$34.95



BEDDING & TOWELS

1-800-878-3326

FAX 24 HOURS: 1-303-574-9442



Vehicle Diagram Comforter
Twin LHF11 \$49.95
Full LHF12 \$59.95

Vehicle Diagram Sheets
LHF7 Twin \$38.95
LHF8 Full \$48.95



Character Study Sheets
LHF5 Twin \$38.95
LHF6 Full \$48.95

Character Study Comforter
LHF9 Twin \$49.95
LHF10 Full \$59.95

Comforters

Complete your bed set with these luxurious 50/50 polycotton blend comforters. Available in both twin and full sizes. These comforters match the Star Wars sheet sets.

Sheets:

Create your own Star Wars bedroom with these new sheet sets. Each set comes with a fitted sheet and a top sheet made from a smooth and comfortable 50/50 polycotton blend. The twin size set comes with one pillowcase (Darth Vader on one side and C-3PO on the other) and the full size set comes with two pillowcases. Two great designs available.

Pillowcases

Get your favorite Star Wars characters on these great new pillowcases. Each pillowcase has two characters, one on front, and one on back. One pillowcase each \$6.95.

Luke Skywalker/Princess Leia Pillowcase
LHF16 \$6.95



Han Solo/Chewbacca Pillowcase
LHF14 \$6.95



Star Wars Ships Towel Set:
This 100% cotton towel set includes bath towel, hand towel, and wash cloth.



Jabba the Hutt/Boba Fett Pillowcase
LHF15 \$6.95



C-3PO/R2-D2 Pillowcase
LHF43 \$6.95



Yoda/Darth Vader Pillowcase
LHF12 \$6.95

Symbols of Star Wars Blanket



LHF1 Twin \$39.95 / LHF2 Full \$49.95

This beautiful new Star Wars velux blanket from Westpoint Stevens is made from 100% nylon with an insulated base—to keep you warm. Available in both twin size (66"x90") and full size (80"x90").

Bath Towels

Now you can dry off with your favorite Star Wars character. These 100% cotton bath towels measure 33" x 60". Buy one or collect the whole set and save.

Set of 6 LHF23 \$79.95

R2-D2
LHF17 \$14.95



Boba Fett
LHF18 \$14.95



Princess Leia
LHF19 \$14.95



Darth Vader
LHF20 \$14.95

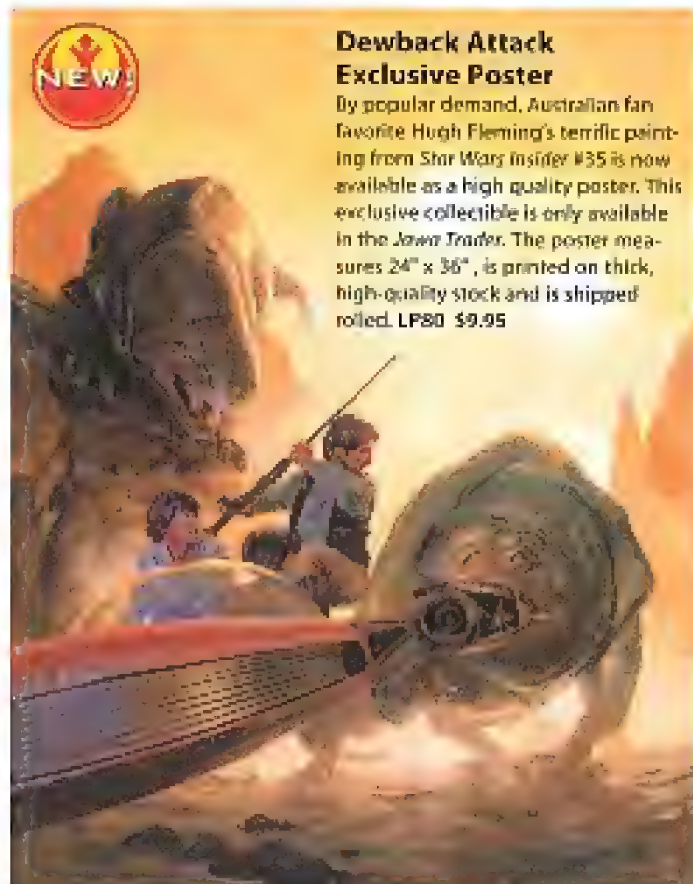


Stormtrooper
LHF21 \$14.95



C-3PO
LHF22 \$14.95





**Dewback Attack
Exclusive Poster**

By popular demand, Australian fan favorite Hugh Fleming's terrific painting from *Star Wars Insider* #35 is now available as a high quality poster. This exclusive collectible is only available in the *Jawa Trader*. The poster measures 24" x 36", is printed on thick, high-quality stock and is shipped rolled. LP80 \$9.95



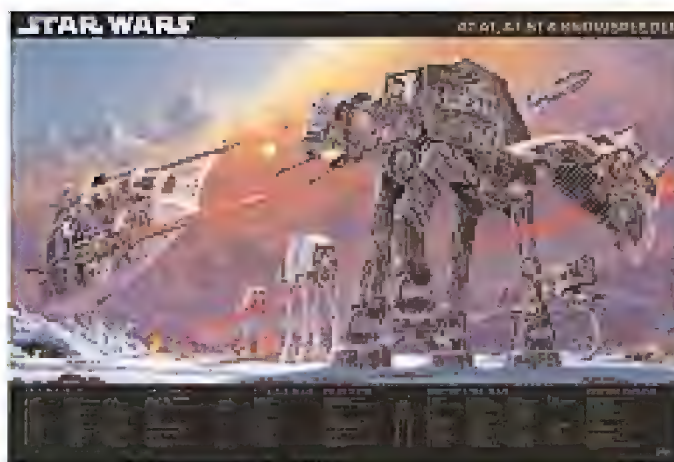
**Princess Leia
Signed Art Print Limited
Edition of 1,500**

This excellent character study by fan favorite Dave Dorman shows Princess Leia in her Boushh bounty hunter outfit, seen in *Return of the Jedi* and *Shadows of the Empire*. Princess Leia is printed on quality archival paper with light-fast inks and measures 16" x 20". All are signed and numbered by Dorman himself. LP69 \$45.00



**Wedge Antilles Signed
Art Print Limited
Edition of 1,500**

Dave Dorman brings you Wedge, the great Rebel pilot, in this new 16" x 22" art print, created with archival paper and light-fast inks. Each print is signed by Dorman himself. LP78 \$45.00



**AT-AT, AT-ST, Snowspeeder
Cut Away Poster Signed Limited Edition**

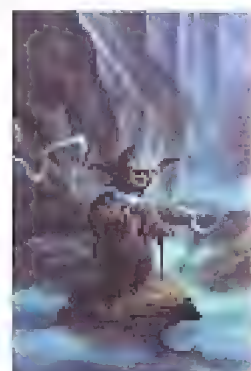
This new poster has easy-to-read specifications and over 60 technical call-outs. You won't find a more detailed look at your favorite *Star Wars* vehicles. Regular poster measures 24" x 36", is printed on 60 lb cover archival quality paper with 4 color process and one metallic ink, and is UV coated. Limited Edition poster measures 25" x 36", is printed on 80 lb cover archival-quality paper with 4 color process and one metallic ink, has two matte finishes, aqueous coating—and is signed by the artists.

LP76	Cut Away Poster	\$19.95
LP77	Signed Limited Edition Poster	\$40.00



**Death Star Main Reactor Lithograph
Signed by Ralph McQuarrie & David Prowse**

Each lithograph is signed and numbered by Ralph McQuarrie and David Prowse and only 2,500 are available. Lithographs each come with a one-of-a-kind, 70mm film frame. No two film frames are alike. This handsome product comes already framed (18"x12", bevel-cut matte and black metal frame) and ready to hang, with a push-button, back-lit light for the film frame. LTC55 \$249.00



Yoda Poster

The full page Yoda illustration from *Insider* #26 has been blown up to a spectacular 24" x 36" high quality poster. Beautifully painted by one of Japan's premier science fiction illustrators, Tsuneo Sando, this poster is a must for fans of the 900 year old Jedi Master.

LP45 \$15.00

**Battle of Hoth
Signed Art Print
Limited Edition of
1,500**

Dave Dorman has created a new original limited edition art print of the Battle of Hoth filled with vibrant colors and breath-taking excitement. Measuring an oversized 32" x 14" with a 2" framing border, this is possibly one of Dorman's greatest *Star Wars* pieces. Printed on quality archival paper with light-fast inks. All are signed and numbered by Dorman himself. LP70 \$45.00



Limited Edition Darth Vader Watch

Fossil, one of the world's greatest watchmakers, commemorates the *Star Wars* saga with this official Darth Vader watch. Comes packaged in round case with Imperial logo label pin and includes certificate of authenticity. This watch is limited to 10,000 pieces. A 23k gold-plated version is also available and is a limited edition of only 1,000 pieces.

LW3 Gold Watch \$120.00

LW4 Silver Watch \$90.00



Star Wars Insider Logo Pin

Show the world YOU are an insider! This high-quality silver-finished antiqued pin measures approximately 1 1/2 inches. This pin will be limited to 1,000 pieces.

LPN37 \$4.50



Millennium Falcon Pewter

The most celebrated spaceship in the *Star Wars* universe is reproduced in great detail with fine pewter in this great gift item that measures approximately 3 inches long.

LM35 \$38.50

Pewter Star Wars Ships and Characters

- LM4 Yoda
- LM5 Ewok
- Each 1 1/2" tall
- \$12.50
- LM7 Princess Leia (2 1/2")
- LM9 Han Solo (2 1/2" tall)
- \$17.50
- \$45.00

- LM10 Stormtrooper
- LM11 Boba Fett
- LM21 Emperor
- Each 2 1/2" tall
- \$19.50

- LM14 Darth Vader (2 1/2")
- \$30.00
- LM22 Small TIE fighter
- 3" long \$40.00

- LM25 Small X-wing
- LM26 Shuttle Tydirium
- Each Approx. 3" Long
- \$45.00

- LM17 Imperial Star Destroyer 4" long
- \$75.00



Imperial Emblem Ceramic Mug

Declare your allegiance to the Imperial forces on coffee breaks with this high quality ceramic mug that includes Imperial symbol frontpiece made from fine pewter.

LMUG13 \$14.95

Boba Fett Emblem Ceramic Mug

High quality ceramic mug comes with Boba Fett's chest icon crafted in fine pewter on front of mug.

LMUG12 \$14.95



Star Wars Pins

The Force will be with you when you walk around with these beautiful cloisonne pins. Perfect for *Star Wars* fans in any galaxy. Priced as marked.

- LPN29 Large Rebel Alliance Logo \$8.00
- LPN35 Boba Fett Round Insignia Pin \$7.00
- LPN34 Boba Fett Skull Insignia Pin \$7.00
- LPN33 Jabba's Tattoo Pin \$6.00



Death Star Limited Edition of 4,500

Rawcliffe does it again with this beautifully hand-crafted depiction of the second Death Star from *Return of the Jedi*. Over 2 1/2" in diameter this piece is solid pewter and comes mounted on its own base. Surface detail on the Death Star is truly superb. Order today, only 4,500 will be made.

LM33 \$199.95



Princess Leia Keychain

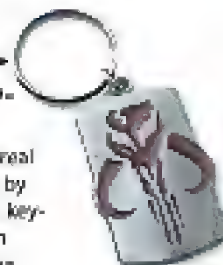
Our first Princess Leia is approximately 1 1/2" across and is made from finely crafted pewter.

LKC3 \$7.00

Boba Fett Emblem Keychain

Find out who the real *Star Wars* fans are by flashing them this keychain depicting an emblem from Boba Fett's Mandalorian armor, and see if they recognize it. Keychain is approximately 1 1/2" across and is made from finely crafted pewter.

LKC4 \$7.00





Jabba's Palace Limited Edition Expansion Set

This new expansion brings battling back to the root of gameplay and introduces a host of new aliens, vehicles, and locations, as well as increased player interaction. The 180-card set includes great cards like Jabba the Hutt, Bib Fortuna, Salacious Crumb, and Sarlacc.

LTC6P Box of 60 Booster Packs: \$125.00
 LTC6Q Set of Six Booster Packs: \$14.95



Star Wars Monopoly Windows 95 CD-ROM Collector's Edition

This Windows 95 CD-ROM game is a special collector's edition that comes with an exclusive Anakin Skywalker pewter figure and three collectible coins.

LSOFT1 \$59.95



Cynabar's Fantastic Technology: Droids RPG Supplement

LBK120 \$15.00



Gundark's Fantastic Technology: Personal Gear RPG Supplement

LBK119 \$17.00



Dagobah Limited Edition Expansion Set

Land on Dagobah with this new 180-card SWCCG expansion set, with 26 more rare cards than previous sets! New cards include bounty hunters, asterooids, TIE bombers, Jedi training cards, and Yoda. New 9-card packs and one rarity level mean entire sets can be collected quicker and easier. Be the first on your block to get a space slug card.

LTC6I Box of 60 Booster Packs: \$125.00
 LTC6J Set of Six Booster Packs: \$14.95

Cloud City Limited Edition Expansion Set

The second Star Wars Customizable Card Game expansion set of 1997 features Lando Calrissian, and finally, Boba Fett! This 180-card set has new rules innovations including the ability to put a "price" on your opponent's head. Available in full boxes of 60 packs or sets of 6 booster packs.

LTC6L Box of 60 packs \$125.00
 LTC6M Set of Six Booster Packs \$14.95



SWCCG Official Tournament Sealed Deck

This beautiful new product comes in a random assortment of 6 different box designs. Each sealed deck has 4 Premiere Unlimited Expansion packs, 1 A New Hope Limited Expansion, and one unique 18-card black bordered pack made exclusively for this product. 1 box per sealed deck product.

LTC6N 1 BOX \$19.95



Star Wars First Anthology

Star Wars First Anthology contains two white border, randomized 60-card Premiere starter decks, two 15-card A New Hope expansion packs, two 15-card Hoth expansion packs, six never-before-seen white border, rare preview cards (from the Special Edition), one free Jedi pack, a revised rules supplement, all packed in a durable and attractive 800-card storage box.

LTC6K \$32.00

Star Wars Second Anthology (not shown)

Decipher comes back with another great anthology set that includes 2 packs Dagobah Limited Edition Expansion, 2 packs Cloud City Limited Edition Expansion, 8 packs Premiere Unlimited Edition Expansion, 6 white bordered preview cards, rules supplement, and a great storage box that holds over 800 cards. Don't miss it!

LTC6O \$32.00



24k Gold Star Wars Cards Limited Edition of 1,000

Each 24k gold card is produced by the unique Authentic Images Photo Imaging process, and is encased in a 1/2" acrylic holder. Cards come with a black vacuum formed jewel case gift box with the Star Wars logo. Each image is a limited edition of 1,000 and is individually numbered.

LLC8 Han and Jabba
LLC9 Luke
LLC10 Leia
LLC11 Darth Vader
LLC12 Obi-Wan Kenobi
\$69.95 each

LLC27 Jabba's Palace
LLC28 Luke & Boba Fett
\$75.00 each

Jedi Knights Metal Collector's Card Set

Includes 5 cards featuring an individual Jedi Knight with a bonus card of a Special Edition scene of Mos Eisley Spaceport along with a classic battle between Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader. Each card is all metal with patented rolled edges, and includes informative narratives on the back of each card.

LTC43 \$14.00



Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition Widevision Card Set

72-card set of the Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition, with select shots from Empire and Jedi.

LTC41 \$40.00

Shadows of the Empire Metal Collector's Card Set

This 6-card set features art from the Shadows of the Empire Comic Series. Autographed by Insider artist Hugh Fleming. Limited availability, first come first served.

LTC42 \$30.00

Star Wars Vehicle Card Set

72 card set plus bonus 12 piece game card set

LTC34 \$24.00



OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY
5:45am - 10:15pm, MST!
TOLL FREE! 1-800-878-3326

WEARABLES

T-Shirts

Four cool shirts from Winterland feature funky new Star Wars designs on the back and the Star Wars logo on front printed on 100% cotton shirts. Darth Vader shirt is one-sided with raised inks. Shirts not pre-shrunk.



BACK

Darth Vader t-shirt
 (one-side w/raised inks)
 LTS82 L,XL \$16.50



FRONT

Luke Skywalker t-shirt
 LTS79 L,XL \$17.95



FRONT

BACK

Princess Leia t-shirt
 LTS81 L,XL \$17.95



BACK

FRONT

Stormtrooper t-shirt
 LTS80 L,XL \$17.95

Embroidered Star Wars Shirts

These three new embroidered shirts are made of thick 100% cotton and have embroidered Star Wars logos.



Star Wars Polo exclusive
 LTS64 M,L \$29.95



Star Wars exclusive T-shirt
 LTS85 M,L,X,XX \$18.95



"May the Force be with you" sweatshirt
 LTS83 M,L,X,XX \$29.95



Star Wars Trilogy Patch Set

The Star Wars Fan Club has brought back the cast/crew patches from the original Star Wars trilogy. Each one of these incredible patches has colorful and finely detailed embroidery and measures approximately 5" long. Only 1,000 sets are being made. You won't find these designs anywhere else! First come first served.

LEP4 \$12.00



Star Wars Tie Top Ski Hat
 LCAP12 \$12.95

Luke Skywalker Bespin Jacket, Han Solo Vest

Created with high-quality fabric and stitching these costume replicas are superior in every way to the versions originally offered by the Fan Club fifteen years ago. Available only from the Official Star Wars Fan Club. Accept no cheap imitations, order the real thing today! Please note, vest sizes run large.

Luke Skywalker Bespin Jacket

LJK2M Medium
 LJK2L Large
 LJK2X X-Large
 \$79.95 each

Han Solo Vest

LJK1M Medium
 LJK1L Large
 LJK1X X-Large
 \$59.95 each





L26D
\$34.00

TIE Fighter Pilot Helmet



L26H
\$36.00

Boba Fett Mask



L26B
\$36.00

Stormtrooper Mask



L26L
\$86.00

Emperor's Royal Guard Mask



L26A
\$36.00

Darth Vader Mask

Star Wars Masks / Helmets

These fantastic plastic replicas from the Star Wars saga can be proudly displayed at home or worn at the next galactic party! Call for availability.



L26Q
\$54.00

Scout Trooper Mask

Chewbacca Pre-painted Vinyl Kit

This pre-painted 1/6 scale vinyl model kit features one of the best sculpts ever of Chewbacca. Comes ready to assemble. Limited edition of 9,000.

L164N \$29.50



Luke Skywalker X-wing Pilot Vinyl Doll

This 10" vinyl doll comes with poseable arm and removable helmet.

LAPP32 \$17.00



TIE Fighter Pilot Vinyl Doll

One of the coolest costume designs in the Star Wars trilogy is reproduced here in this terrific high-quality 10" vinyl doll.

LAPP31 \$17.00



Lando Calrissian Pre-painted Vinyl Kit

This cool pre-painted vinyl model kit is 1/6 scale and features Lando in a great action pose. Limited edition of 9,000.

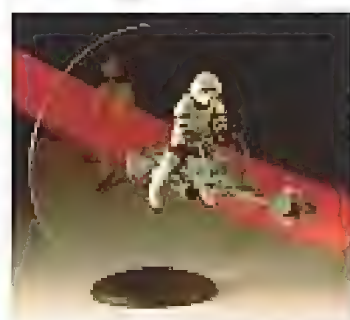
LT64M \$29.50



Han Solo in Carbonite Limited Edition of 2,500

Cast from the actual mold in the Lucasfilm Archives, Han Solo in carbonite is made from fiberglass like the original and is exquisitely painted with a three color process. The dimensions are as follows: height: 83", width: 36", depth: 14". Has eight control panels (non-working) and back side is enclosed. Weighs over 70 lbs. and is shipped in one container. Each one comes with certificate of authenticity signed by V.P. of Lucas Licensing Howard Roffman and artist Mario Chioldo of Illusive Originals. Limited edition of 2,500 pieces. Measures over 6 feet tall. No foreign orders on this product. Cannot ship to P.D. Boxes.

LLCS \$1,200.00



Animated X-wing Fighter Model Kit

This all-new kit is not only 25% larger than previous kits, it's motorized; the canopy opens, the strike foils open and sound chip has 5 authentic phrases like: "Don't make me destroy you", "I have you now", and "Stay on target". Comes with fiber optic lights in cockpit and lighted engines.

LMK13 \$49.95

Speeder Bike Model Kit

LMK11 \$20.95



Millennium Falcon Model Kit

L25D \$17.20

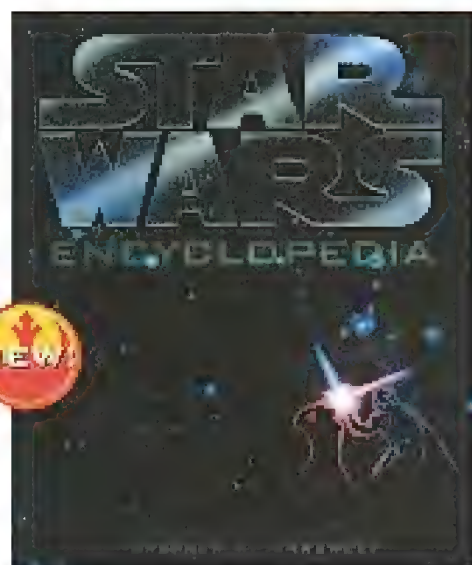


Slave I Model Kit

LMK4 \$15.95

OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY
5:45am – 10:15pm, MST!
TOLL FREE! 1-800-878-3326

BOOKS & AUDIO



Star Wars Encyclopedia

Finally the biggest and most exhaustive *Star Wars* reference book ever assembled is here. With thousands of entries and hundreds of full color illustrations, this 350+ page book is an extraordinary alphabetical review of all the important heroes, villains, places, starcraft, lore, and legend in the *Star Wars* universe. Includes comprehensive *Star Wars* timeline. Introduction by Timothy Zahn. All copies autographed by author Stephen Sansweet himself.

LBK117 \$49.00



Star Wars: The Magic of Myth

The official companion volume to the landmark Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum exhibition explores the mythological roots of *Star Wars*. Dozens of new photos and exclusive commentary document this historical event. Available in hardcover and softcover.

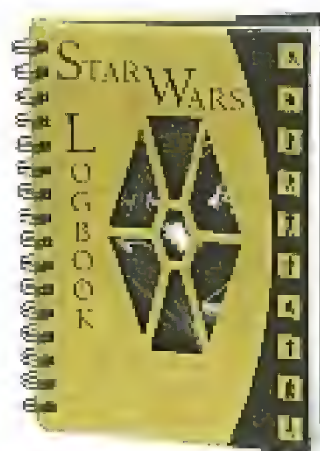
LBK105 softcover \$24.95

LBK106 hardcover \$49.95

Shadows of the Empire Enhanced Soundtrack CD

Joel McNeely and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra bring you over 50 minutes of grand music inspired by *Shadows of the Empire*. Also features an interactive CD-ROM which includes Nintendo 64 screen shots and much more.

LAC21 \$17.95



Star Wars Logbook

This wire-bound journal measures 5-5/8" x 8-1/4" and has 128 pages. *Star Wars* characters quotes and illustrations are spread throughout. The perfect gift.

LBK107 \$12.95



Star Wars: Dark Force Rising Graphic Novel

Timothy Zahn's beloved novel has been adapted into a great graphic novel by Mike Baron, Terry Dodson, and Kevin Nowlan, with an introduction by Michael A. Stackpole.

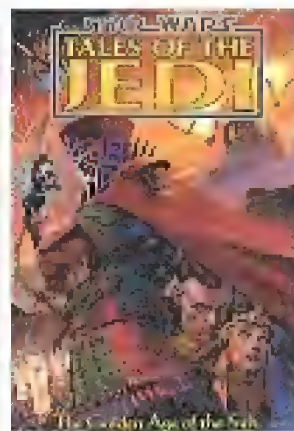
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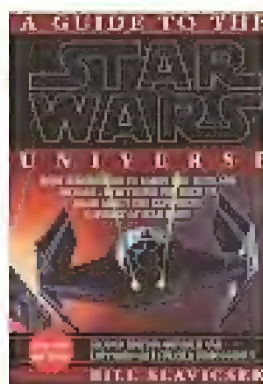
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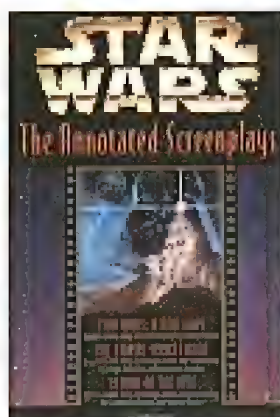
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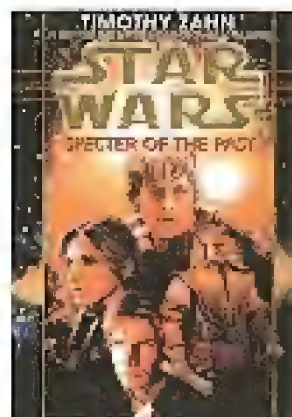
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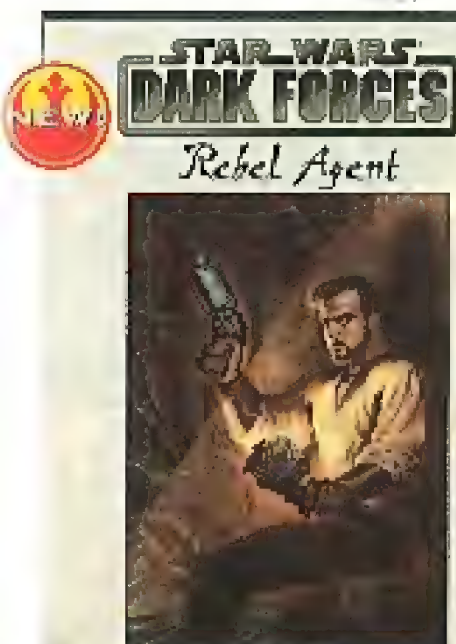


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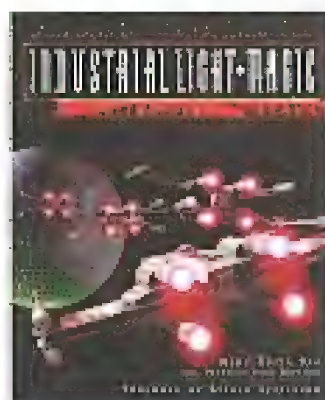
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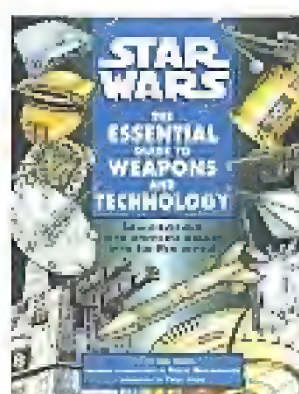
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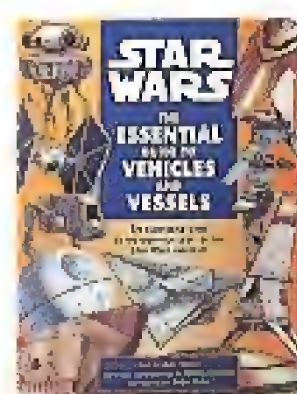
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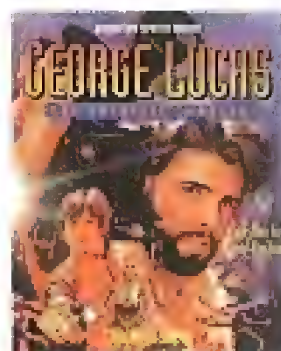
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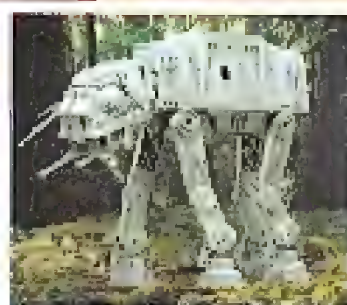
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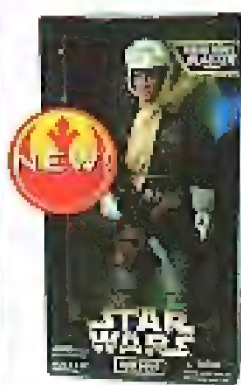
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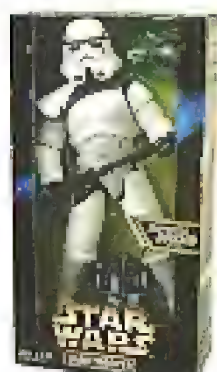
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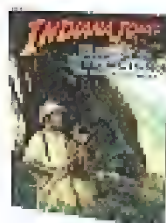
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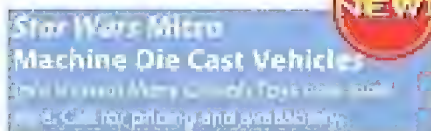
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1. *Journal of Management Education*, 1999, 23(1), 1-10.

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I Bent my Wookiee!

Celebrating the

by Scott Chernoff

Star Wars/Simpsons

connection

If I had to get into a schoolyard fist fight over what was the funniest TV show of all time, I'd go to the mat for *The Simpsons*. No show has stayed so consistently brilliant for such a sustained period of time (production is under way on the show's 10th season), nor has any show sent me into so many uncontrollable fits of laughter. I don't know about you, but I've

American society and culture. Each episode of the Fox powerhouse is crammed with so many jokes and ideas that fans are richly rewarded with new laughs for every repeat viewing, and every story is played out by characters that have become more beloved—and real—to viewers than most of their live-action counterparts. Indeed, Homer's oft-repeated cry of

Princess Leia and as smart as Yoda." Coolest of all is that in the same episode, "I Married Marge," we learn in a flashback that young hellion Bart Simpson was conceived the night Homer and Marge saw *The Empire Strikes Back*. (Leaving the theater, Homer ruins the movie's big surprise for everyone waiting in line when he complains, "I can't believe Darth Vader is Luke Skywalker's father.")

Delivered into the world by creator Matt Groening and his fellow executive producers James L. Brooks and Sam Simon in December, 1989 (after two years of short *Simpsons* cartoons on *The Tracey Ullman Show*, which Brooks and Simon also produced), *The Simpsons* has become almost as popular and iconic as *Star Wars* itself, and it seems only right that these two powerful pop cultural phenomena have joined Forces on occasion, with *The Simpsons* slipping in occasional, hilarious *Star Wars* references and ultimately collaborating with

"Marge, you're as pretty as Princess Leia and as smart as Yoda." —HOMER SIMPSON

never made it through an episode of *The Simpsons* without laughing. Hard. Several times.

That's thanks not only to the show's incredible cast of voice actors but also to its heroic writing staff, who over the years have used the animated citizens of Springfield USA to analyze and satirize nearly every aspect of

"D'oh" has become as ubiquitous a phrase in the pop culture pantheon as "May the Force be with you."

All of which makes it that much cooler when Homer, declaring his love to wife Marge in the third season, uses *Star Wars* as his model of goodness, declaring her "as pretty as

Lucasfilm on a THX Digital Sound System trailer—not to mention this issue's awesome cover.

"Most of us working not only on the show but also on the Simpsons comic grew up with *Star Wars*," said Bill Morrison, editor/writer/art director at Groening's Bongo Comics and a designer/contributing artist for the must-read HarperPerennial book *The Simpsons: A Complete Guide to our Favorite Family*. Like the series, Bongo's Simpsons comics have also included many *Star Wars* references.

"*Star Wars* came out the year I graduated high school, and I didn't have a summer job, so I ended up seeing *Star Wars* 25 times," Morrison continued. "I wanted to be a sci-fi illustrator at one point."

Jason Grode, Simpsons comics writer/managing editor added, "I was nine when *Star Wars* came out. I remember vividly seeing the trailer and going home and telling my mother, 'There's this science-fiction movie coming and it's got this guy, and he's like evil or something, and there's this girl, and there's this monkey guy and they travel around'—I was so excited. I saw it 36 times. I was a science-fiction fan before, but that really put me over the edge."

Matt Selman, a story editor for *The Simpsons* told the *Insider* that while the TV show has included references to obscure favorites like *Twin Peaks* and *Schoolhouse Rock* that may have passed right by many oblivious viewers, there is no question about whether viewers will recognize a *Star Wars* joke. "There is not going to be an argument over 'Is anyone gonna get this' when you're putting in a *Star Wars* reference," he said.

But the writer, who says he's the biggest *Star Wars* fan on the current writing staff, insisted, "There is no explicit *Star Wars* agenda on the show. The best episodes are the ones where you have a really good, emotional story for the family, and you pile on the crazy stuff around that. Nothing works if you're trying to

cram in something that doesn't belong there."

Said Bongo's Morrison, "It's such a part of our culture that the references come at you, and there's no plan. You're writing a story, and a *Star Wars* joke pops into your head. *Star Wars* is full of so many great lines that it's just a treasure trove of gags. There's a lot of stuff to mine."

Selman, who's in his second season writ-

ing one episode, "Lisa the Beauty Queen," that featured both a caricature artist's rendering of Darth Vader in the background and a montage of Lisa trying on the hairdos of Marge, Grace Jones, Bo Derek—and Princess Leia.

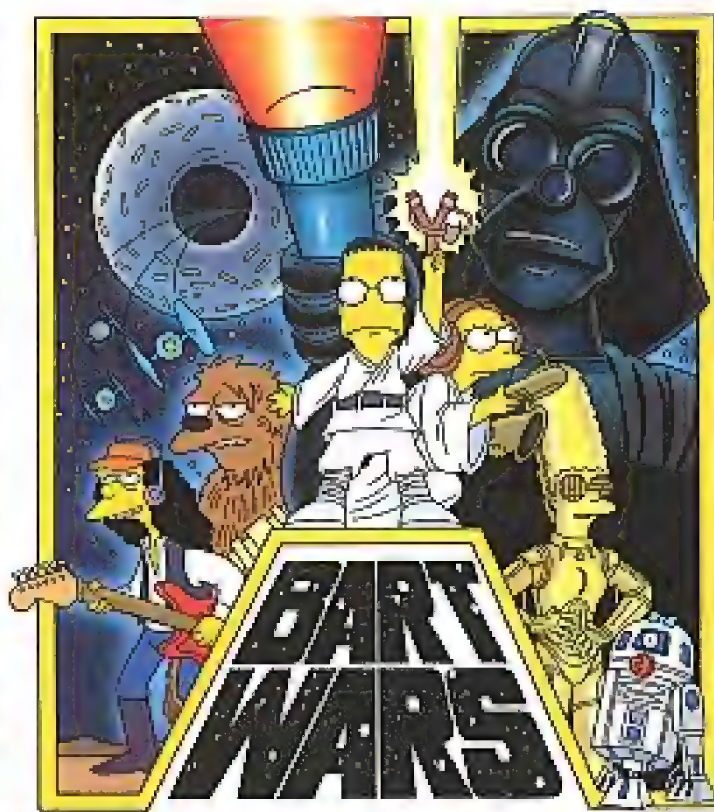
And then there's the first and foremost *Star Wars* moment in Simpsons history: in the show's fifth episode, "Bart the General," written by John Swartzwelder, Bart closes the show by informing the audience "There are no good wars, with the following exceptions: The American Revolution, World War II, and the *Star Wars* trilogy." (At least one *Star Wars* reference has followed every year; see sidebar.)

Simpsons comics *Star Wars* jokes have ranged from slipping in stormtrooper cameos when least expected to having Mr. Burns paraphrase Grand Moff Tarkin by barking, "Evacuate—in my moment of triumph? I think you overestimate their destructive capabilities." Said Grode, "If you don't know *Star Wars*, it's still funny on its own, but if you're a fan, there's that little extra. A lot of comics fans are science-fiction and *Star Wars* fans, so it's giving just that much extra to the fans."

The joke worked, Morrison said, because the line "fits Tarkin as much as it does Burns." Indeed, Burns is every bit as evil an archetype as Tarkin and Emperor Palpatine, to whom he bears more than a passing resemblance, not to mention a fondness for the catch phrase "Excellent." The Simpsons even once its own version of John Williams' "Imperial March" to underscore Burns' villainy. But Mr. Burns is just one of the many timeless characters who populate

Springfield. Like *Star Wars*, writer Selman said, "We have a rich universe to fall back on."

And most of those characters are probably *Star Wars* fans, the writers agreed. "I think anything that American kids are into, the kids in Springfield are into," Selman said, adding that clearly many Springfield adults are also



"There's never gonna be an argument over 'Is anyone gonna get this' when you're putting in a *Star Wars* reference."

—MATT SELMAN, STORY EDITOR FOR THE SIMPSONS

ing for *The Simpsons*, noted, "The guys who probably put in the most *Star Wars* stuff were Al Jean and Mike Reiss, who ran the show during the third and fourth seasons." In addition to the *Empire Strikes Back* episode above, highlights from this period include Mayor Quimby mistakenly telling *Star Trek*'s Leonard Nimoy, "May the Force be with you" in the classic episode "Marge vs. the Monorail"; a landspeeder-like vehicle cruising by in "Itchy & Scratchy: The Movie"; and

▲ ABOVE: The "Bart Wars" illustration was created for a 1990 'R Us T-shirt design.

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← A scene from *The Simpsons* episode "I Married Marge." See *Star Wars* side bar.

"I can't believe Darth Vader is Luke Skywalker's father." —HOMER SIMPSON

fans, naming the blue, elephant-like keyboard player Max Rebo as a likely candidate for being Homer's favorite character.

"I think Lisa would be a fan of certain parts of it because there's a grand mythology to *Star Wars*," Grode said. "There's a certain kind of intelligence behind it, and that's the kind of thing Lisa would like." Morrison agreed, adding, "She would be really into Yoda." On the other hand, Grode added, "The funny Wookiee costume is something Ralph Wiggum would be into."

Asked which Springfield characters, if any, would not like *Star Wars*, Morrison thought for a moment and said, "Sideshow Bob would definitely not be into it." But Grode disagreed,

arguing, "One of the greatest things about *Star Wars* is you can find a line for anyone to find value in it. Sideshow Bob would like how *Star Wars* is empowering a young person to see things and make himself somebody, which Sideshow Bob wants children to do."

Convinced, Morrison finally hit upon a character who definitely would not like *Star Wars*—"Seymour Skinner's mother!" Skinner himself, who once awarded Ralph first prize for his science fair diorama of *Star Wars* action figures, "would be interested in the battles," Morrison said.

The bitter Springfield shopkeeper known simply as "The Comic Book Guy," Morrison

added, would "resent other fans and would be critical of *Star Wars* just to have an opposing view. He probably wouldn't like the Special Edition."

The most recent Simpsons/*Star Wars* moment came on "The Last Temptation of Krust," when Krusty the Clown grabbed a cup of joe at a coffee shop called "Java the Hut." The quick joke came about simply because, said Selman, "we needed a funny name for a coffee shop."

But Selman revealed that there may be a much grander *Star Wars* tie-in coming next season. "I was talking to one of the writers who's working on a script right now where the first act takes place in a sci-fi convention," Selman told the *Insider*. "This could change, because everything gets rewritten, but in one scene, Mark Hamill is there and he says something like, 'I only have time to sign one autograph,' and the crowd riots. Mark Hamill loves the

show and does a lot of voice-over stuff, so that'll be a good opportunity for us to try to do Star Wars jokes."

If the episode is produced as planned, it could be the most prominent *Simpsons*-Lucasfilm tie-in since 1994, when a *Simpsons* parody of the classic THX "The Audience is Listening" trailer was adapted to become a real THX trailer shown in theaters.

It all started with the episode titled "Burns' Heir," which was originally shown on April 14, 1994. In an early scene, a Springfield movie house showing "*Siskel and Ebert: The Movie*" runs a THX trailer in which the volume gets so loud that Hans Moleman's glasses shatter, a man's teeth break, and another man's head explodes. When it's over, everyone cheers anyway, except for Grampa Simpson, who cries, "Turn it up!"

"We knew *The Simpsons* was going to spoof THX," said THX Marketing Manager Kim Yost. "We had been talking with them about what they needed for the segment, and it was a lot of fun. Howard Roffman (currently vice president of Lucas Licensing) was running THX," Yost continued, "and I understood from Howard that he was with George Lucas and George basically said, 'This is very funny! We've got to make this into a trailer—this is great!'"

Roffman and Yost enlisted the *Simpsons* animators to re-animate the segment for film-aspect ratio, tweaking the timing of the piece a bit so that it would work as a THX trailer, but leaving the essential story and humor intact. From there, sound was mixed at Skywalker Sound, and the trailer was in theaters by the 4th of July—less than three months after the episode aired on Fox.

"The *Simpsons* marked a departure because it was a fun spoof of our classic," Yost said. "Today, in that spirit, we have our Tex character, and he also uses the classic trailer sound for his little adventures. We were thrilled *The Simpsons* wanted to include THX. The response was tremendous. To this day it's a favorite of many, and we get a lot of requests for it."

Yost said Lucasfilm and the *Simpsons* team have a great working relationship. "They're great," she said. "There's just a nice collaboration."

Simpsons writer Selman joked that the collaboration could go even further. "Maybe the new *Star Wars* movies will have *Simpsons* references," he suggested. "I believe the young Luke is going to be based on Milhouse."

Dahl ♡

BART WARS

A *Simpsons/Star Wars* Compendium

This is as complete a list as we at the Insider, with considerable help from our friends at *The Simpsons* and Bongo Comics, were able to compile. We trust you'll let us know if we've missed any...

"BART THE GENERAL" (2/4/90) Bart accurately declares the only "good wars" to be the American Revolution, World War II, and the *Star Wars* trilogy.

"I MARRIED MARGE" (12/26/91) In a flashback, Homer and Marge are leaving the theater where they just saw *The Empire Strikes Back* when Homer marvels, "I can't believe Darth Vader is Luke Skywalker's father," ruining the surprise for everybody in line. Later, Homer declares his love: "Marge, you're as pretty as Princess Leia and as smart as Yoda."

"LISA THE BEAUTY QUEEN" (10/15/92) Lisa goes to a caricature artist who displays a caricature of Darth Vader. In a montage, she sports the cornrows of Bo Derek, the beehive of Marge Simpson, and the legendary double-bun 'do of Princess Leia.

"ITCHY & SCRATCHY: THE MOVIE" (1/13/92) A landspeeder-type vehicle cruises by Homer and Bart.

"MARGE VS. THE MONORAIL" (1/14/93) Mayor Quimby attempts to ingratiate himself to Star Trek's Leonard Nimoy, who's in town for the launch of the Springfield Monorail, by telling him, "May the Force be with you."

SYNDICATION PROMO (fall, 1993) In a commercial to promote reruns of *The Simpsons*, we see actual footage of Luke's X-wing entering the Death Star trench, with Bart animated into Luke's uniform and firing the shot that destroys the Death Star.

"HOMER GOES TO COLLEGE" (10/14/93) Mr. Burns leaves his office in an escape pod similar to the one used by C-3PO and R2-D2 at the beginning of *Star Wars*.

"BURNS' HEIR" (4/14/94) A THX trailer is so loud it shatters glasses, teeth, and heads to the astonishment and appreciation of a packed house of moviegoers.

THX THEATRICAL TRAILER (6/94) Slightly different version of the THX spoof from "Burns' Heir."

"LISA'S RIVAL" (8/7/94) Principal Skinner can barely contain his joy upon seeing Ralph Wiggum's science fair project: "Pre-packaged *Star Wars* characters still in their display box? Are those the limited edition action figures? Why, it's Luke,

and Obi-Wan, and my favorite, Chewie! They're all here! ...We have a winner!" Also, Ralph drops his Chewbacca figure and whines, "I bent my Wookiee!" Earlier in the episode, Lisa's rival Allison (guest voice Winona Ryder) easily offers this apropos anagram for Alec Guinness: Genuine Claus.

"HOMER VS. PATTY AND SELMA" (2/26/95) Bart's ballet teacher appears to him with advice a la Obi-Wan Kenobi.

"A STAR IS BURNS" (3/5/95) A *Simpson*-esque version of John Williams' "Imperial March" (arranged by the show's inventive composer Alf Clausen) is heard as Mr. Burns plots his winning film for the Springfield Film Festival at the nuclear power plant.

"ROUND SPRINGFIELD" (6/30/95) In a classic spoof of the ubiquitous voice of James Earl Jones, three of his most famous incarnations (voiced by *Simpsons* regular Harry Shearer) put in cameos after Lisa's dead saxophone mentor, Bleeding Gums Murphy, appears to her in a cloud. First Lion King patriarch Mufasa rises in the sky and intones, "You must avenge my death, Kimba—dah, I mean Simba!" (a silly reference to similarities between the Disney character and a popular Japanese animated character), followed swiftly by Darth Vader, intoning, "Luke, I am your father." Finally, James Earl himself appears, announcing, "This is CNN."

"THE SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION" (5/2/95) The Springfield Pops plays the *Star Wars* theme, and Homer complains to Marge that tampering with the classics will make John Williams turn over in his grave. (We're happy to report that Mr. Williams is very much alive—and working on the score for Episode I of the new *Star Wars* trilogy.)

"TREEHOUSE OF HORROR VII" (10/27/96) In the story "The Genesis Tub," inspired by an episode of *The Twilight Zone*, tiny spaceships attack Bart along the contours and perimeter of his body, like X-wings on the Death Star.

"THE SPRINGFIELD FILES" (1/12/97) When Homer sees an alien (actually a frail and glowing Mr. Burns), Mulder and Scully of *The X-Files* show him an all-star police line-up of aliens that includes ALF, Looney Tunes star Marvin the Martian, *The Day the Earth Stood Still's* Gort—and Chewbacca. The Wookiee is also briefly seen singing with Scully and Mulder.

"THE LAST TEMPTATION OF KRUSTY" (2/23/98) Krusty the Clown goes to a coffee shop called Java the Hut.

Special thanks to *The Simpsons'* Andy Gaffman and Matt Groening.

an audience with

Billy Dee Williams

Among the Clouds

BY SCOTT CHERNOFF

Billy Dee Williams believes in himself. The super-suave actor, who brought an aura of dashing cool to the *Star Wars* universe as Cloud City's charming rogue Lando Calrissian, has even more self-confidence in real life than he projected in *Return of the Jedi* when he casually boasted, "Someone must have told them about my little maneuver at the battle of Taanab."

In fact, chatting on a recent afternoon with Williams—who also starred in such films as *Batman*, *Brian's Song*, *Nighthawks*, and *Lady Sings the Blues*—it becomes clear that the actor is Lando Calrissian. All the charm, bluster, guile, integrity, and complexity that made Calrissian such a classic character comes straight from Billy Dee. So too does Lando's barrier-breaking spirit.

"I have always had a style of my own," Billy Dee told the Insider, "but I didn't sit around and figure it out. It's self-esteem—you're not adhering to everybody else's idea of what you should be. You're pretty comfort-

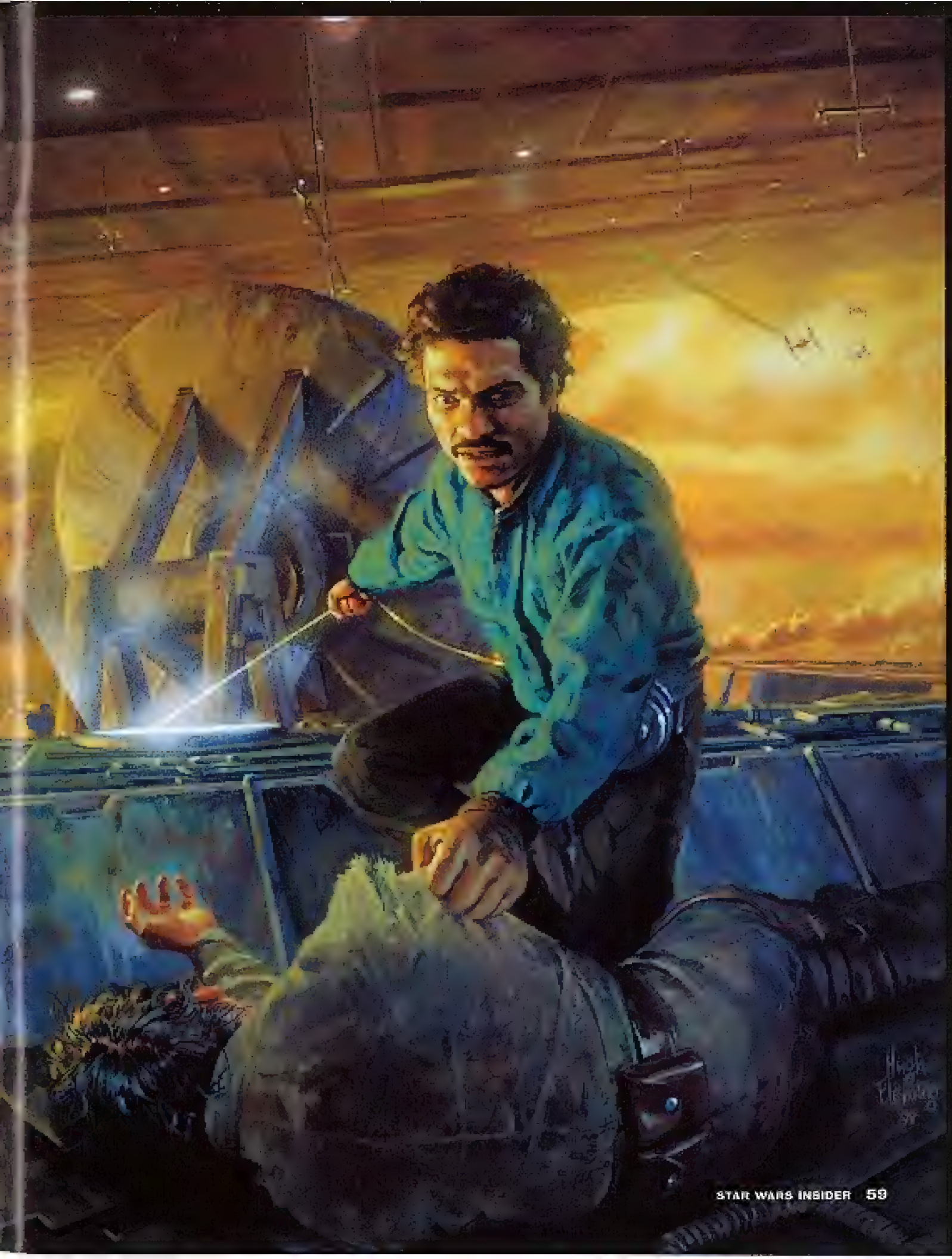
able being a maverick. The idea of being an iconoclast, an eccentric, is something that appeals to me."

That brash individualism has served Billy Dee well throughout a long and diverse career that has encompassed acting, painting, writing—and even at

one point the release of *Undeniable*, his own Avon fragrance.

Undeniable was indeed an apt moniker for Williams' signature scent, since it also summed up the strength of his appeal. In the 1970s and into the '80s, Billy Dee Williams was the African-American romantic leading man of cinema—one of the most successful black stars in an era when black leading men were few and far between.

"There are a lot of things I wanted to do on film that I was not able to do because people were not prepared to do them, because of ethnicity," Billy Dee said. "The industry just wouldn't let me do it. The fact that I



became the first black romantic hero on the screen was unprecedented. Even then, it was very hard for a lot of people to deal with that—but they couldn't make it go away."

In fact, Billy Dee became so popular that his fame transcended his race, paving the way for a new generation of black actors. Whether he was soaring through space as Lando Calrissian, romancing Diana Ross in *Lady Sings the Blues* and *Mafioso*, or barging into a tavern, clad in a tux, to pitch Colt 45 malt liquor in a legendary series of TV commercials, Billy Dee Williams became known as one of the most dashing and debonair stars in Hollywood.

"I think I have a lasting quality that's like Gable and those guys—no matter how long ago, they'll always be remembered," Billy Dee

said. "What George creates; he creates a family."

But from his first appearance, greeting Han, Leia, Chewie, and Threepio on the landing platform in Cloud City, Lando commanded audience attention. Fans were intrigued by this caped lothario described by Solo as "a card player, gambler, scoundrel." His history as the original owner of the *Millennium Falcon*, current status as administrator of the visually dazzling Bespin mining colony Cloud City, and his suave, supercool persona, all served as a seductive cover for Lando's initial betrayal of his old friend. The fact that he was always shadowed by a bald, headphone-wearing cyborg named Lobot didn't hurt his image either.

With lines like "You truly belong here with us among the clouds," which he smoothly

cooed to Princess Leia while kissing her hand upon meeting her, Billy Dee was the perfect choice for the dashing, swashbuckling space entrepreneur. "I could see why they chose me to do it, because I have those qualities," Billy Dee said. "I wanted to

make him that kind of a guy."

But even though Lando realized his mistake by the end of *Empire* and helped Leia, Luke, Chewie, and the droids escape from the Bespin system, many fans at first found it difficult to reconcile Lando's charming approach with the way he handed his old buddy Han right over to Darth Vader and Boba Fett, two of the most hardcore villains in the galaxy. It just didn't seem like something a friend would do.

"When the movie came out," Billy Dee recalled, "I would pick up my daughter from school, and these kids would run up to me and say, 'You betrayed Han Solo!' I would then find myself getting into the middle of trying to explain the whole situation. Even airline stewardesses would tell me I betrayed Han Solo. I would say, 'You don't understand—it was a very peculiar situation. I had to deal with Darth Vader, and also I had Cloud City—this is my domain and I didn't want to lose it because these people showed up with Darth Vader on their tail. So I had to figure out how to save them.' Listen to me, I'm doing it now."

Flashing back to the persecution, Billy Dee proceeded to present a spirited defense of the deceptively debonair Calrissian. "He had to save his situation," Billy Dee rationalized. "Lando and

When the movie came out, I would pick up my daughter from school, and these kids would run up to me and say, "You betrayed Han Solo!"

said. "I was also deemed the black Clark Gable. That wasn't even a publicity thing—I would have people run up to me in the supermarket saying, 'I have to tell you this: you are the black Clark Gable.'"

Billy Dee told the *Insider* that he saw his opportunity to join the cast of *The Empire Strikes Back* in 1979 as a key element in his plan to break through racial stereotypes. "Being a hero was a very big part of my thinking at that time," he said, "because I really wanted to create something that nobody seemed to want to look at. I have always somehow seen myself that way, and I wanted to present myself that way. So it worked."

It sure did. Somehow, in *Empire* and *Jedi*, Billy Dee Williams effortlessly achieved the impossible: he crashed the holy trinity of *Star Wars* stars—Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, and Carrie Fisher—and established himself as the fourth essential member of that heroic team, even though he is nowhere to be seen in the first *Star Wars* adventure.

Looking back on his early days on the *Empire* set in London, Billy Dee confided, "It was difficult because I was the new boy on the block. They were like a little family—and that's





»THE MANY FACES OF BILLY DEE: In *Empire* (above) and in (right, top to bottom) *Lonesome Dove*, *Blago Long*, and *Mykthosky*, with Sylvester Stallone.

Han Solo are pretty much the same kind of people: they're hustlers, and they gamble and figure out ways to do things without too much violence—although I think probably Han Solo is a little bit more on the violent side than Lando, because Lando gets his stuff through charm.

"But," he continued, "I had to do it in such a way that there wouldn't be a complete demise of Han Solo or the rest, but I knew there would have to be some sort of delay." Suddenly, Billy Dee became even more animated, talking on the character of Lando in a sponta-

neous way. "It's about that farm boy and his growth." Then Billy Dee added, "When I say a lot of this stuff, a lot of times I'm just saying it in jest. You know me—I don't really mean it."

But despite his jovial demeanor, Billy Dee admitted, "I'm not always smiling. I'm a mercurial kind of person. I'm a brooder by nature. But I've always been happy. My mother tells me that when I was little I was always acting out characters and telling jokes all the time. But I always remember being a brooder. I isolate myself so that when I do get out it's really such

I'm not always smiling. I'm a mercurial kind of person. I'm a brooder by nature. But I've always been happy.

neously electrifying reprise: "I lost everything," he insisted. "I lost everything because of that whole situation! I even stood up to Darth Vader, which most people don't do. Look at what he did to the guy at the opening of the movie on the ship there!"

Despite Billy Dee's impassioned protestations to schoolchildren and airline stewardesses, the jury remained out on Lando until he returned for *Return of the Jedi* as a general in the Rebel Alliance, leading the attack on the Death Star while riding shotgun in the Millennium Falcon with his own jolly Sullustan sidekick, Nien Nunb, laughing all the way. Suddenly, all was forgiven.

"The audience was so enamored with Lando, they could forgive Lando for anything," Billy Dee recalled. "If you're able to play a character that can be sort of a bad guy but has redeeming qualities, those are the best characters to play. That was a great challenge to me, to make him palatable, and it worked."

While fans, knowing the scope of Lando's role in the original *Star Wars* trilogy, are now less likely to berate Billy Dee in public, Billy Dee confessed that he thinks his role in *Jedi* could have gone even further. "I think if I had my way, I would have saved the day," he declared. "I thought that would have been the ultimate, because there's so many stories about Lando and his adventures."

Reminded that Lando did indeed help destroy the Death Star, Billy Dee said, "That meant a lot, but I guess I was looking to do the whole trip. If I had done the movie by myself I guess I would have been happy! I sort of forgot that the story is not about Lando and his hero-

ic, it's about that farm boy and his growth." a good feeling to be around people—that motivates me to smile."

Perhaps some of his elusive personality will come to light in his upcoming book, "It's an interesting way of presenting my life," Billy Dee said of the project, "because it's through my art but also through a lot of my ideas and thoughts, a lot of my thinking. Over the years, I would sit before a tape recorder and record my thoughts and my views on things, so a lot of the stuff is transcribed tapes."

Born in New York City in 1937, Billy Dee auditioned for his first role, in a Kurt Weill musical play, when he was 6, because "my mother was interested in introducing me to the acting world," he said, "so I have her to blame for all this!" He got the part, and on opening night, Billy Dee was sure he was a star.

"They had me walk across the stage two times," he remembered, "and then they said, 'Thank you very much, Billy.' I decided I didn't want to leave until I could walk across the stage a third time, and I embarrassed my mother so much because I started crying until they let me do it. I was a spoiled, precocious little boy who wanted his way and had always gotten his way."

"So they let me do it, and I think that's when it all hit me. I loved the idea of being on stage and being in front of an audience. It's very interesting when I think back on it, how things sort of just snapped right into place."

But it would be years until Billy Dee came close to acting again. Instead, he was an artist, a painter, attending Music and Art High School in New York. "Music and Art was a very special place," he recalled. "There was a very loose

artistic atmosphere. Romanticism was still in the air." One day, he said, "I was running around looking for a cigarette, and this producer and director just walked up to me and said, 'Are you an actor?' I said, 'Uh, yeah.' They asked me to come in for an audition."

This time, though, Billy Dee didn't get the part. "I wasn't seasoned enough," he said. "I



didn't really take acting seriously. The director said to me, 'You've got a great deal of talent, but you should study.'"

Instead, he spent two years painting on scholarship at the National Academy of Design for the Fine Arts, only to be discovered yet again, this time by a casting director when Billy Dee accompanied a friend to an audition. Soon, Billy Dee was doing extra work with the likes of

Garvin McLeod (future captain of *The Love Boat*) and, finally, studying acting.

"It was a lot of training in those years," Billy Dee said. "You went from acting classes to fencing to dance—a whole system. In those days, it was sort of drummed into your head that you should spend two years studying before you get out and work, but I never adhered to that. I

impossible soon followed, before he relocated to Los Angeles in 1970. "I had a little boy at the time," he said, "and I needed to make some money. I wanted to take my chances and see what I could do away from New York."

The gamble turned out to be just as successful as any wager laid by Lando Calrissian. Looking back on his Hollywood career, the actor

and *Mohogany* (1975), which was directed by Motown Records founder Berry Gordy—whom Billy Dee went on to portray in the 1992 TV miniseries *The Jacksons: An American Dream*. "It was his idea," Billy Dee said. "He always wanted to look like me. And I always said I only wanted to have his brains. It was fun. I really captured him pretty good as a matter of fact."



MOON MAN, GAMBLER, SPONDREL: Billy Dee Williams as Lando Calrissian in *The Empire Strikes Back* (above and right) and in *Return of the Jedi* (below left, right)



thought if I ever get an opportunity, I'm going to take the opportunity."

Of course, opportunity knocked almost immediately, and soon Billy Dee was appearing on Broadway in plays like *The Cool World* and *A Taste of Honey*, and in his first film, *The Last Angry Man* (1959). A role on the daytime soap *Guiding Light*, and guest appearances on primetime series like *The FBI* and *Mission:*

said, "I've done a lot of films—some good, a lot of bad ones. There's one movie I did called *Giant Steps* (1992) which is, I think, one of the best roles I've ever done. It's about a jazz musician. I did that in Canada. And a movie I did called *Hill* (1973) was sort of a revolutionary idea, for a black man to play a CIA agent. I headed up that cast."

The star teamed with Diana Ross in both *Lady Sings the Blues* (1972), his breakout role,

Billy Dee was also paired with comedy superstar Richard Pryor in three movies—*Lady Sings the Blues*, *Hill*, and 1976's *The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars & Motor Kings*, which also starred Billy Dee's *Star Wars* colleague James Earl Jones. "He was my pal," Billy Dee said of the man who would go on to lend his voice to Darth Vader. "He played my brother in the second play I did on Broadway, *The Cool World*."

Through it all, Billy Dee became just as famous for his way with women as for his acting. "My mother used to talk about Rudolph Valentino a lot, and I always wanted to grow up to be like Valentino," he said. "Of course, I love the ladies, so when I did *Lady Sings the Blues*, I thought it was a great opportunity to display a kind of romanticism that people have never seen."

As a public service to our readers, the Insider pressed Billy Dee for the secrets of his approach to the ladies. "My mother says if I saw something attractive about anybody, I would have no compunction about saying anything about it," Billy Dee shared. "Maybe I just get away with it because I've somehow learned the art of charm—and it is an art. A lot of it has to do with self-awareness, how you perceive yourself. You're nice to people. You welcome people to you. You don't give of yourself for a long time, but you do it in a very pleasant way. Plus, you gotta be a little handsome too, I guess."

Immediately, he added, "You don't have to be handsome really, because there are guys who are very charming who are not handsome, but they're handsome inside. And you have to have a feeling of romance too. Romanticism is limitless. It includes swashbuckling, it includes duels, but it's all done with a certain flair. You don't take it all too seriously; it's not like you gotta have it."

It was that easy flair that catapulted Billy Dee to sex-symbol status. On one infamous episode of TV's *The Jeffersons*, wacky maid Florence (Marla Gibbs) was so overcome by guest star Billy Dee's presence that she fainted. "Women fainting, that was amazing to me," the star said, claiming that when women started passing out around him, "I didn't have even have any fame at the time. It was happening all my life, actually. When I was three years old, I wandered off down the beach, and when my mother and father found me, I was surrounded by a bevy of ladies with cupid lips all over me. So I was pretty much destined for this life with the ladies."

Fulfilling that destiny has not been difficult, Billy Dee added. "I've always been a very good lover, and a friend."

Already a star, his fame reached an apex when *The Empire Strikes Back* was released in 1980. Billy Dee said being offered the part of

Lando Calrissian was the opportunity of a lifetime. "They called and I met with [director] Irv Kershner. We talked a lot about Eastern philosophy, which I was very much into, and he decided he wanted to work with me."

"I signed a two-picture deal with them," Billy Dee continued. "I was like everybody else—a fan. And then when it happened to me, I thought, 'Wow, this is great!' And then having dolls made of me was even better—effigies! I sign them all the time." The actor had been watching George Lucas' work for years. "I liked

special-effects artists, Billy Dee could often be found wandering the enormous sets. "I was really quite impressed," he said. "It always amazed me, these guys who put all that stuff together, the artisans, I have always admired them. I was also quite impressed with the set that was created for Gotham City in *Batman*."

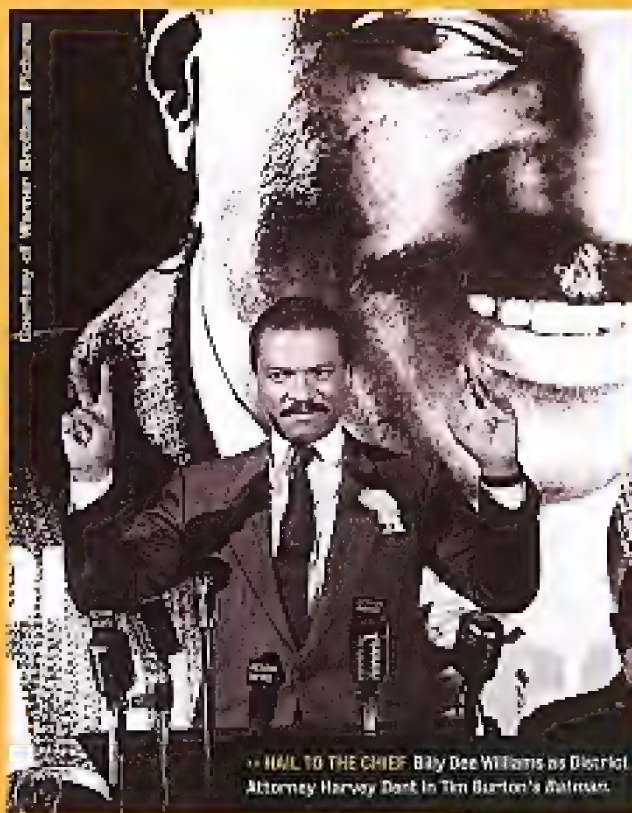
Billy Dee admits to some disappointment that he was overlooked in favor of Tommy Lee Jones when his *Batman* character, Harvey Dent, returned as a villain in *Batman Forever*. "I really wanted to play Harvey Dent when he became Two-Face," the actor said. "I really play good bad-guys. I love playing villains."

In fact, when the Insider talked to Billy Dee, he had just returned from shooting a Canadian film called *The Contract*, in which he plays a corrupt U.S. senator pursuing the presidency by any means necessary. Other post-Calrissian roles for Billy Dee have included two seasons (1984-86) as millionaire playboy Brady Lloyed on the hit TV soap *Dynasty* and one season (1992) as cowboy Aaron Grayson on *Comeback Doves: The Series*.

And the actor has some casting ideas for who should play Lando's father (should such a role exist) in the new *Star Wars* prequel trilogy: "Me. I don't think any of those guys have what I have on screen. They don't understand it the way I understand it. They're good actors, but when it comes to a certain pedigree, we're miles apart."

Still, the actor's favorite role has remained the one he started with: artist. The painter had his first exhibition in Los Angeles in 1988, and is currently preparing for his latest showing, an exhibition of jazz-related works for a gallery in New Orleans. "Almost every evening, I paint, into the morning," Billy Dee revealed. "I've been painting and acting all my life. It's just a matter of using different materials. I'm never going to give up acting."

That's good news to his legions of fans, who know that wherever he appears, Billy Dee Williams will make his mark as indelibly as he did when he joined the *Star Wars* saga midstream to become one of its biggest and most beloved characters. "It's been the story of my career," Billy Dee reflected. "*Lady Sings the Blues*—same thing; that movie was Diana Ross' movie, but I emerged from that movie. I know that about myself."



MAIL TO THE CHIEF: Billy Dee Williams as District Attorney Harvey Dent in Tim Burton's *Batman*.

him ever since I saw *TROJ* (1970) and I thought, 'Wow, what a unique movie, what a unique filmmaker!'"

Billy Dee remembered his "*Star Wars* experience" as a happy one. "Carrie [Fisher] and I became real good buddies," he said. "What I really enjoyed were the people that George embraced and gave work, the young people who were not necessarily in show business but were technically or scientifically trained. I would go over to where they were working and see what they were doing. They were brilliant, all young kids."

"See, I like young people," the father of two continued. "I love the energy, the ideas of young people. And I'm very supportive of young people, because when I was younger everybody supported me."

When he wasn't admiring the work of the

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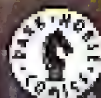
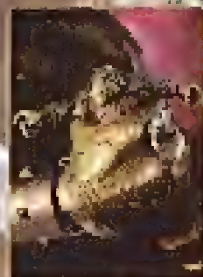
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TOP

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Star Wars

CHARACTERS

The *Star Wars Insider* Favorite Characters Poll Results

When I announced the *Insider's* Favorite *Star Wars* Character Poll last year, I had no idea the response would be so overwhelming—or so verbose. Some readers literally sent in college term papers justifying their choices. Others simply sent in postcards with no return address and straightforward messages like “DARTH VADER IS MY FAVORITE” banged out on an old typewriter. ‘Nuff said.

Perhaps more amazing than the number and variety of responses I received is that I read every single one of them. Looks like it's a good thing we did this now—next year, the *Star Wars* universe adds a whole pantheon of new characters, and my assistant Tina and I would probably have to take a month off from work just to tally the poll results.

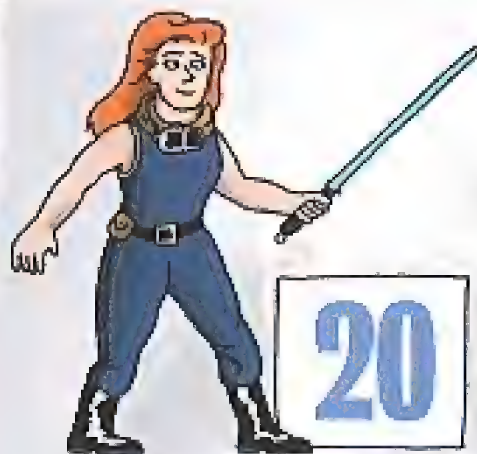
Once again, I would like to thank everyone who took a moment to write in. Many readers are quoted in this piece, but unfortunately space

does not allow us to credit individual quotes or print full responses. While many of you were enthusiastic about your support for individual characters, reader Kathleen Wasen voiced a common sentiment when she wrote, “In response to your request on who is your favorite *Star Wars* character, I would just like to say there is no way. That is like asking a mother who is your favorite child.”

Another dedicated fan, reader Sal D. Camilleri, prepared a two-page, single-spaced, typewritten letter listing his favorite characters, and ended it by asserting, “That's my list. Sorry it's so long, but you can't say I don't take my *Star Wars* seriously!” So do we Sal, so do we.

Let the countdown begin!

BY JON BRADLEY SNYDER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL REX



20. Mara Jade

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Empire, then Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "I can fly anything."

FASHION STATEMENT: Luke Skywalker's lightsaber hanging from her belt.

WHAT FANS SAID: "She's pretty. She was a servant of the Empire, then slowly turned to the New Republic." "...a female hero to admire." "...by far one of the coolest characters ever to be associated with *Star Wars*."



19. Dengar

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Free-lance bounty hunter

MEMORABLE LINE: Who needs a line? His cold stare speaks volumes.

FASHION STATEMENT: Heavily scarred face—despite advances in laser skin repair technology.

WHAT FANS SAID: "Dengar rocks! Why isn't he shown in the movie more?" "He got Boba Fett to be Best Man at his wedding." "Dengar is a better version of Superman. I mean, he can hold a blaster rifle in one hand, no problem."



18. Bossk

SPECIES: Trandoshan

AFFILIATION: Free-lance Bounty Hunter

MEMORABLE LINE: Kissed onscreen once.

FASHION STATEMENT: Goes to work barefoot.

WHAT FANS SAID: "May not be the most feared bounty hunter in the galaxy but definitely in the top five." "Fascinating, mysterious, enigmatic, ambiguous, repulsively alluring." "Who wouldn't relish the opportunity to follow Bossk in the hunt for his next quarry?"



17. Admiral Piett

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Empire

MEMORABLE LINE: "Those Rebels won't escape us."

FASHION STATEMENT: Kept his boots shiny.

WHAT FANS SAID: "A good officer, unfortunately serving evil masters on a path to destruction." "Only Imperial to appear in more than one movie." "At the end of *YESB* we look at Piett (after the Falcon had escaped) and think 'dead man walking.' But Vader let him live and we see him in *Jedi*. Vader has an almost 'kind' tone towards Piett. The part of Vader that was still Anakin Skywalker felt for Piett."



16. Admiral Ackbar

SPECIES: Mon Calamari

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "We have no choice, General Calrissian. Our cruisers can't repel firepower of that magnitude."

FASHION STATEMENT: White, wide-mouth turtlenecks.

WHAT FANS SAID: "A cunning tactician, but a humanist." "He's a military genius, plus he's just really cool." "I'm the only person I know who considers Ackbar to be his favorite character. Since he isn't the most popular character there is a limit to what I can collect." "Luke should dump Calista because he could do better, and she could marry Ackbar and they could have little half-fish kids."

"He's a military genius, plus he's just really cool."

—ON ADMIRAL ACKBAR



15. Wicket

SPECIES: Ewok

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "Grrrrrrrrrr."

FASHION STATEMENT: Hand-made leather hat/bib combo.

WHAT FANS SAID: "He is funny and cute." "He's been my idol ever since I saw him back in 1983. Warwick Davis is a one-of-a-kind master." "Most people don't realize the important role that Wicket and the rest of the Ewoks played in helping defeat the Empire." "Wicket is the greatest character in the Star Wars universe."



14. Emperor Palpatine

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Empire

MEMORABLE LINE: "Your feeble skills are no match for the power of the dark side."

FASHION STATEMENT: Pads around in his robes like he was Hugh Hefner—hey, when you're the Emperor, you can wear whatever you want.

WHAT FANS SAID: "...the most evil, vile, disgusting, twisted villain ever to be portrayed on the silver screen or anywhere else." "...some-one who can boss Darth Vader around." "Not enough is written about him." "I can't wait to see how Mr. Palpatine became the King of Evil." "I believe that the Emperor helps us to touch on the part of ourselves we often push aside."



13. Obi-Wan Kenobi

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "I'm getting too old for this sort of thing."

FASHION STATEMENT: Stately facial hair.

WHAT FANS SAID: "He is extremely wise and kind of tough." "...one of the trilogy's most intriguing characters." "...an essential link between the original trilogy and the upcoming prequel trilogy." "Obi-Wan doesn't get enough credit. Without Ben, Luke would still be farming on Tatooine."

"I could listen to him chatter 24 hours a day."

—ON C-3PO

12. C-3PO

SPECIES: Droid

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "You'll be malfunctioning within a day, you nearsighted scrap pile."

FASHION STATEMENT: Resplendent in gold, with a spot of silver for style.

WHAT FANS SAID: "...a straight-talking, no-nonsense droid. I appreciate the way he is a big warrior and always expects the worst possible scenario to occur." "...there's a special quality about Threepio I can relate to." "He saved the Rebel Alliance on several occasions." "Threepio is such a prissy, pretentious, neurotic, worry-wart, scaredy-cat that I just have to laugh at him." "I could listen to him chatter 24 hours a day. Anthony Daniels made him come to life in a way no other actor could."



11. Lando Calrissian

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "You truly belong here with us among the clouds."

FASHION STATEMENT: The most famous mustache in the galaxy.

WHAT FANS SAID: "...gets along so well with all the other characters, even C-3PO." "...always smiling and in a good mood." "He has a style all his own (cool cape)." "I like Lando because he is black, and a hero. There are not enough black characters in science fiction who are heroes."



10. Jabba the Hutt

SPECIES: Hutt

AFFILIATION: None

MEMORABLE LINE: "This bounty hunter is my kind of scum, fearless and inventive."

FASHION STATEMENT: Lets it all hang out.

WHAT FANS SAID: "He's big and slimy and gross and has a serious drooling problem." "He may be loathsome and perverse, but he's a calculating genius who knows what he wants." "He's lazy, sits around all day, hires people to do his dirty work, has all the entertainment he wants, and he's rich. Jabba's living the American dream."



8. Wedge Antilles

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "Good shot, Janson."

FASHION STATEMENT: Never takes off his orange flight suit.

WHAT FANS SAID: "The guy helped blow up two Death Stars." "... not whiny and moody like Luke is." "Who else can co-star in all three films and not get upset when a Power Droid action figure was made twenty years before his action figure?" "In *Jedi* he mopped the floor with the Empire. They ought to give Wedge his own television series."



7. Yoda

SPECIES: Unknown

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "Mudhole? Slimy? My home this is."

FASHION STATEMENT: Been wearing the same dirty smock for 750 years.

WHAT FANS SAID: "... gives good advice." "Even though he's small and short he's stronger than 30 Wookiees put together." "... because he's wise, and he's funny when he beats Artoo with a stick." "I had a hard time deciding between Luke and Yoda. But I seem to like Yoda. No offense Luke." "He's so adorable and little. His voice is cool too. How can people not love him?"



9. R2-D2

SPECIES: Droid

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "Whirrerrrrr Eexp."

FASHION STATEMENT: Blissfully ignorant of any and all fashion considerations.

WHAT FANS SAID: "Who would have thought that there could be so much personality in a short container of metal, wires, and sensors?" "He is the robot equal of a dog. Always alert and aware of when he is needed." "Willingly placed himself in the service of that nasty slug Jabba. No other droid would have done that."



6. Chewbacca

SPECIES: Wookiee

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "Kroow!"

FASHION STATEMENT: Wookiee chic—fur, over-shoulder bandolier, and tasteful leather pouch.

WHAT FANS SAID: "Although Leia is irresistible, the number one character in my book is Chewbacca." "... as loyal as a dog." "If Chewie hadn't been such a smooth talker how would Ben and Luke have gotten passage aboard the *Millennium Falcon*?" "I like his growls, snorts, and furriness."



5. Princess Leia

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "You came in that thing? You're braver than I thought."

FASHION STATEMENT: The New Hope hairstyle... often imitated, never equaled.

WHAT FANS SAID: "Her hair is really neat." "Unlike princesses in other movies she was independent and a fighter." "She killed Jabba by choking him, with the chain. That took a lot of strength." "Leia struggled to make it in a male-dominated society, and she did." "... If it weren't for Leia, Xena would be unemployed, Janeway would be fetching coffee for Captain Kirk in a micromini skirt, and Scully's job would be waiting for Mulder to rescue her every week. Leia proved mainstream audiences could accept a strong woman in a leading role."



4. Darth Vader

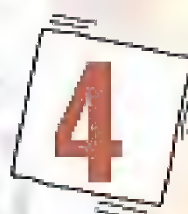
SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Empire

MEMORABLE LINE: "The Emperor is not as forgiving as I am."

FASHION STATEMENT: Artificial respirator and basic black.

WHAT FANS SAID: "LONG LIVE VADER." "... he is great because he doesn't do or say stupid things (like Luke Skywalker)." "I love the way he strangles people." "He tortured his own daughter and tried to murder his own son. Yet for all the terrible wrongs he committed, there was still a small spark of good left in his twisted, evil, soul." "... redemption is a very real part of my life. George Lucas mentioned once that the whole trilogy rests on the redemption of Darth Vader."



3. Luke Skywalker

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Alliance

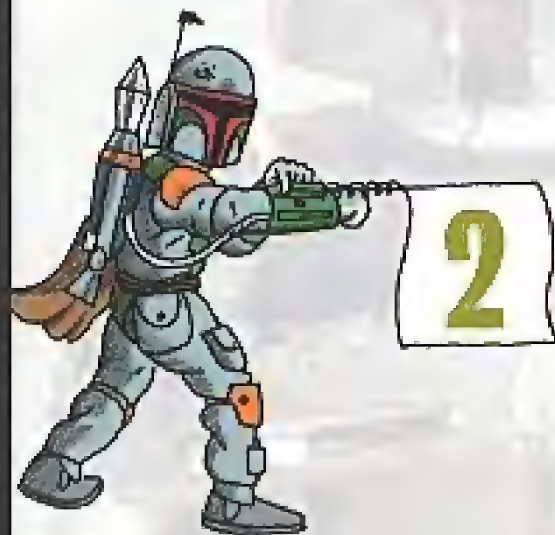
MEMORABLE LINE: "But I was going into Toshi station to pick up some power converters..."

FASHION STATEMENT: His wind-swept blond hair.

WHAT FANS SAID: "I can relate to him. I live in a small town in Illinois and I want out!" "I adore the way he fights and I find his voice soothing." "... a really nice guy always eager to help people in need." "... I've always had a secret crush on him." "He saved me from turning to the dark side in my own life." "Luke Skywalker was my beacon of hope during a troubled adolescence. He taught me that I could overcome adversity and create the meaningful, challenging life I yearned for if I persevered with courage and faith. Today I am on my way to a Ph.D. in medieval literature..."

"A *Star Wars* without Fett is like chicken soup without chicken."

—ON BOBA FETT



2. Boba Fett

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Free-lance Bounty Hunter

MEMORABLE LINE: "He's no good to me dead."

FASHION STATEMENT: Wookiee poits.

WHAT FANS SAID: "He's the coolest." "... he's my favorite because all he cares about is money." "Boba Fett is the all time best character in the world." "A *Star Wars* without Fett is like chicken soup without chicken." "Boba Fett could best be described as a sometimes vulnerable, always unpredictable person." "His helmet never comes off!" "Even though he's now as trendy as a character can get, I still think of Boba Fett as an old favorite." "He appeals to me because of his long, lonely quest for enough credits to retire from the life of a bounty hunter."



"He has the right looks to make any woman wish they were Princess Leia."

—ON HAN SOLO

1. Han Solo

SPECIES: Human

AFFILIATION: Alliance

MEMORABLE LINE: "Laugh it up, fuzzball."

FASHION STATEMENT: His *New Hope* sideburns have come back into style.

WHAT FANS SAID: "... the best haircut." "... he always comes through." "Underneath his sarcasm and rough edge is a tender side we'd all like to get to know." "All brave men have a touch of courageous madness: Patton, MacArthur, Nimitz, Napoleon, and, oh yes—Han Solo." "I have sworn absolute allegiance to Solo and all story-lines and products that bearing his likeness." "He has the right looks to make any woman wish they were Princess Leia." "He's a smart alec, like me, and he doesn't pay off his debts." "I have come to learn, through him, that in life's little games, it is best to remain relaxed and confident."

STAT WARS

MOVIE LINES / POPULARITY INDEX

RANK	CHARACTER	MOVIE LINES	# OF LINES	MOVIE LINES INDEX
1	Boba Fett	2	3	6
2	Wedge Antilles	8	19	152
3	Admiral Ackbar	16	14	224
4	Jabba the Hutt	10	26	260
5	Han Solo	1	360	360
6	Yoda	7	72	504
7	Admiral Piett	17	31	527
8	Darth Vader	4	139	556
9	Emperor Palpatine	14	44	616
10	Lando Calrissian	11	98	1,078
11	Princess Leia	5	235	1,175
12	Obi-Wan Kenobi	13	108	1,404
13	Luke Skywalker	3	478	1,434
14	C-3PO	12	276	3,316

Here are the rilly-gritty, hard and fast, smoke-'em-if-you-got-'em stats on the *Insider's* Favorite *Star Wars* Characters Poll (you will be quizzed):

HAN SOLO edged out **BOBA FETT** by less than 1% of the vote.

MARA JADE (#20) was the highest-ranked character who did not appear in a *Star Wars* movie.

Almost making the list at #21 and #22 were two non-specific characters: **STORMTROOPERS** and **JAWAS**.

The top 20 vote getters accounted for 36% of the vote, while the remaining 14% was split between more than 40 minor characters. For example, **GREEDO** placed 24th, **MUFTHA THE TALZ** was 30th, and poor old **LOBOT** tied for 47th with Max Rebo. Not a single person chose **AUNT BERT** (shame on you!), while **UNCLE OWEN** got one vote. So did the **SARLACS**.

BOBA FETT comes out on top—by a landslide—when the tabulations are weighted to take into consideration the amount of dialogue a character had to make an impression on fans. By multiplying a character's rank on the popularity chart by his number of lines in the *Star Wars* trilogy (Episodes 4–6), we came up with what we like to call the Movie Lines/Popularity Index, on which the character with the lowest index number wins.*

**NOTE: Only characters with specific, scripted lines in the movies could be considered for this purely scientific analysis. Therefore, Mara Jade, Bessie, and Dengar, as well as Chewbacca, R2-D2, and Wicket, were not included.*

Tina Woodale contributed to the tabulation of these results.



The Passing of a Legend

Archie Goodwin

Comics readers everywhere and *Star Wars* comics fans in particular have lost a wonderful friend.

Archie Goodwin, a mainstay of the comics industry for almost 40 years, passed away in early March after a bout with cancer. Fans, retailers, and industry professionals alike will always remember Archie as an ever-friendly face in a sea of harsh deadlines and keen competition. His professional attitude represented a key change in the comics industry, and writers and editors ever since have chosen to emulate his style.

Archie began his comics career with the help of another longtime friend to *Star Wars* comics fans: Al Williamson. "Archie had been enrolled at Burne Hogarth's School of Visual Arts. I introduced him to Leonard Starr, whom he assisted on the comic strip *On Stage*," Williamson says. Archie's first Harvey Comics story, titled "Hermit," was penciled by Reed Crandall and inked by Williamson. Later, Archie began writing scripts for Jim Warren's *Creepy*. His work so impressed Warren that he asked Archie to edit the title.

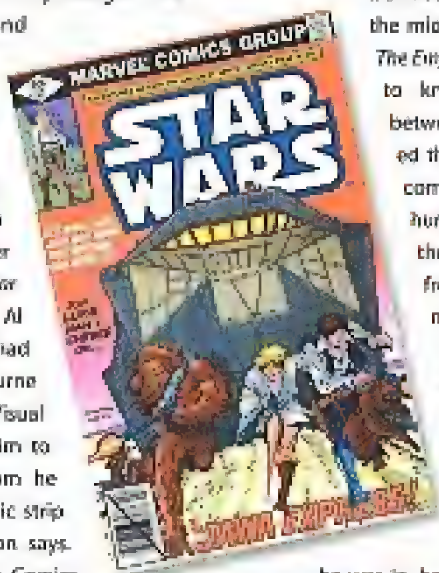
Perhaps Goodwin/Williamson's most memorable work together was a long run of the *Star Wars* syndicated newspaper comic strip. Archie already had a number of years under his belt writing and editing some of the best issues of Marvel's monthly *Star Wars* comic. "We were asked to take over the newspaper strip," says Williamson, "and that's where Archie got the

idea to fill in the story between *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*."

The concept of filling in a story where every reader already knew the beginning and end wasn't new to comics, which could claim a long tradition of origin stories and complicated, time-twisting flashbacks. *Star Wars* itself had been a story that started in the middle, but with the release of *The Empire Strikes Back*, fans wanted to know what had gone on between the two films. They wanted the stories behind Han Solo's comment about the bounty hunter on Ord Mantell, or how the Rebel Alliance chose the frozen world of Hoth as their new base.

Star Wars allowed Archie to shine, both as an editor and a writer. Recalls Al Williamson, "He was very professional. Archie was the kind of guy that, no matter what position he was in, he inspired people to do their best." Archie's affable nature might have been an invitation for some artists to slack off, but, Al continues, "He was very caring, but not a pushover. Archie was such a great guy, you wanted to do your best."

Epic space opera came naturally to Archie, as if he had been waiting all along for a universe to present itself so he could start telling its stories. *Star Wars* was perfect. In his introduction to Russ Cochran's three-volume hardbound reprint of the *Star Wars* newspaper strips, Archie



by Peet Janes





Photo courtesy of DC Comics

wrote about *Star Wars*: "In spirit, no other film has ever quite caught the outlandish fun and excitement of a good strip or comic book as *Star Wars* did."

Archie and artist-collaborators—including Al Williamson, Alfredo Alcalá, Carmine Infantino, and others—proved that correct by seamlessly turning the tables back to the comic-strip source, and making concrete the indelible relationship between the comics medium and *Star Wars*.

Archie synthesized the grandiose comics method of storytelling with the operatic sweep of *Star Wars* in such a way that fans from both camps were satisfied. All of the usual comics elements were there, but there was also an unquestionable salute to the myriad inspirations of George Lucas's vision, such as Alex Raymond's *Flash Gordon*.

"Archie was very inspired by Milton Caniff's *Terry and the Pirates*," says Williamson. "He was very well read. As a matter of fact, I can't understand how we became friends. He was so well read, and I only read Edgar Rice Burroughs!"

Archie's work also showed the first glimmering of a much wider recognition of *Star Wars* as a genuine cultural phenomenon: continuity. Archie was among the first people to look at *Star Wars* and see the potential, to notice the things going on off-camera as much as the things on-camera. The development of characters, good or bad, with feelings, powerful motivations, and events that significantly impact on their lives, produced a loyal fan readership hungry for more information about this world far, far away.

Of course, things were very different in 1978. Now, 30 years later, Dark Horse Comics has the benefit of a well-informed licensing department at Lucasfilm to provide necessary reference, guidance, and approval over a universe that continues to grow and evolve. But only a year after the release of *Star Wars*, Lucasfilm's reference files were considerably thinner, and Lucas Licensing, as a separate office, did not even exist. It was up to the comics creators to extrapolate their own mate-





rial, and do it with enough of the original saga present to keep fan interest.

Any reader of Goodwin's material can quickly discern that this consideration was foremost in his mind, and that his distillations of characters like Luke Skywalker, Han

Solo, and Princess Leia were more pure—and remain so—than any other, before or since. Archie's respect for these characters seemed to follow the same pattern

>> To many, Archie's stories were the first significant *Star Wars* extrapolations of and they remain the best.

of respect he had for his associates in the comics industry.

Says Dark Horse publisher Mike Richardson, "Archie always treated people with respect. Everyone in the industry looked up to him—fans, creators, and professionals alike. He was capable of balancing the commercial aspects of publishing with the artistic concerns. Everything he did, he did with integrity."

Perhaps the best commentary on Archie's *Star Wars* work comes from his fans, those who withstand the prods and jeers of fellow readers

who disdain the generally looser continuity of the Marvel *Star Wars* run. To many of them, Archie's stories were the first significant extrapolations of *Star Wars*, and they remain the best.

"Archie's work for *Star Wars*, both in the Marvel series and the newspaper strips, is as yet unsurpassed in his ability to capture the spirit of the films and touch the hearts of his readers," says Joe Bongiorno, a fan since 1978, and one of the foremost boosters of Dark Horse Comics' plan to reprint the best of the Marvel *Star Wars*. "I am grateful that Dark Horse will finally be

An Archie Goodwin

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(w: writer, a: artist(s))

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- 13 "DAY OF THE DRAGON LORDS" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Terry Austin)
- 14 "THE SOUND OF ARMAGEDDON" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Terry Austin)
- 15 "STAR DUEL" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Terry Austin)
- 16 "THE HUNTER" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Walter Simonson & Bob Wazek)
- 17 "CRUCIBLE" (w: Archie Goodwin & Chris Claremont, a: Herb Trimpe & Al Milgrom)
- 18 "THE EMPIRE STRIKES" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Gene Day)
- 19 "THE ULTIMATE GAMBLE" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Bob Wazek)
- 20 "DEATHGAME" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Bob Wazek)

- 21 "SHADOW OF A DARK LORD" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Gene Day)
- 22 "TO THE LAST GLADIATOR" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Bob Wazek)
- 23 "FLIGHT INTO FURY" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Bob Wazek)
- 25 "SIEGE AT YAVIN" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Gene Day)
- 26 "DOOM MISSION" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Bob Wazek)
- 27 "RETURN OF THE HUNTER" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Bob Wazek)
- 28 "WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO JABBA THE HUT [SIC]?" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Gene Day)
- 29 "DARK ENCOUNTER" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Bob Wazek)
- 30 "A PRINCESS ALONE" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Gene Day)
- 31 "RETURN TO TATOOINE" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Bob Wazek)
- 32 "THE JAWA EXPRESS" (w:

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42 "THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK: TO BE A JEDI" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson, Carlos Garzon, & Rick Veitch)

43 "THE EMPIRE STRIKES

BACK: BETRAYAL AT BESPIN" (w:

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47 "DROID WORLD" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Gene Day)

50 "THE CRIMSON FOREVER" / "CHENBAGGA'S STORY: RAGE IN THE RED NEBULA" / "AGAINST THE SCARLET NIGHT" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson, Tom Palmer, & Walter Simonson)

58 "SUPPLY AND DEMAND" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

RETURN OF THE JEDI

ADAPTATION

- 1 "RETURN OF THE JEDI: IN THE HANDS OF JABBA THE HUTT" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson & Carlos Garzon)
- 2 "RETURN OF THE JEDI: THE EMPEROR COMMANDS" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson & Carlos Garzon)
- 3 "RETURN OF THE JEDI: MISSION TO ENDOR" (w: Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson & Carlos Garzon)

releasing reprints of his work from the Marvel series. I wonder, though, that it is too little too late, and hope that he knew the incredible impression he left with me and so many others at such a young age, and even now, as adults."

Longtime fan Rich Handley, who has turned his love of Star Wars into writing stints for West End Games and

Tapps' *Star Wars Galaxy Collector*, concurs: "I own a lot of comic books. Actually, it's kind of scary how many I've amassed. This makes it hard to find time to re-read any particular issues, and even then, only once. However, I've lost track of the number of times I've re-read Archie's Marvel issues—they're that good—and I take great pleasure in knowing that his stories will soon be reprinted for today's fans."

In the introduction to the first collected edition of *Classic Star Wars*, Archie wrote: "I miss the Star Wars universe, its large cast of characters and the even larger galactic tapestry on which their lives and adventures unfold. I'm grateful for what George Lucas created, brought to stunning realization, and then allowed so many more of us to play with. Having written *Star Wars* comics for three years along with three years'

worth of the strips, I had plenty of time to get bored with the subject or sour on the experience. It didn't happen. Going over some of the comics prior to writing this reminded me that the Star Wars universe is still a great place to visit ... even if I don't live there any more."

You're back among the stars now, Archie, and we're all grateful that you took the time to visit and share some stories. ☺

Archie Goodwin's family invites his fans to make donations to: The Archie Goodwin Scholarship Fund, School of Visual Arts, 208 East 23rd Street, NY, NY 10010. Much thanks to Al Williamson, Rich Handley, and Joe Bongiorno for their considerable help in assembling this article.

4 "RETURN OF THE JEDI: THE FINAL DUEL" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson & Carlton Garrison)

PIZZAZZ MAGAZINE

(Issues 7-16 ... story line concluded in Illustrated Book listed below)

7 "CAVERN OF MYSTERY" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Tony DeZuniga & "the other")

8 "THE KEEPER'S SECRET" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Tony DeZuniga)

9 "THE FINAL FURY" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Tony DeZuniga)

10 "THE KINGDOM OF ICE" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Walter Simonson & Klaus Janson)

11 "THE SNOW DEMONS" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Walter Simonson & Klaus Janson)

12 "TREACHERY" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Walter Simonson & Klaus Janson)

13 "DEATH TRAP" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Walter Simonson & Klaus Janson)

14 "SNOW FURY" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Dave Cockrum & John Tartagliano)

15 "THE ICE WORM COMETH" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Dave Cockrum & John Tartagliano)

16 "SHOWDOWN" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Dave Cockrum & John Tartagliano)

"WAR ON ICE" (see below) (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Dave Cockrum)

STAR WARS: FOUR NEW ADVENTURES IN FULL COLOR

(A Marvel Illustrated Book — contains 3 UK stories and the conclusion of the Pizzazz serial.)

1 "WAY OF THE WOOKIEE" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Pablo Marcos)

2 "THE DAY AFTER THE DEATH STAR" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Gene Day)

3 "WEAPONS MASTER" (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Carmine Infantino & Steve Mitchell)

4 "WAR ON ICE" (see Pizzazz) (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Dave Cockrum)

BOOK-AND-RECORD ADAPTATION OF MARVEL ISSUE 47

STAR WARS: THE FURTHER ADVENTURES — DROID WORLD (Buena Vista Records)

L.A. TIMES NEWSPAPER STRIPS

0 STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE [UNFINISHED] (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

10 PLANET OF KADRII (under a pseudonym) (w/ Russ Helm, a: Alfredo P. Alcala)

11 HAN SOLO AT STARS' END (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Alfredo P. Alcala)

12 THE BOUNTY HUNTER OF ORD MANTELL (w/ Archie Goodwin,

a: Al Williamson)

13 DARTH VADER STRIKES (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

14 THE SERPENT MASTERS (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

15 DEADLY REUNION (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

16 TRAITOR'S GAMBIT (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

17 THE NIGHT BEAST (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

18 THE RETURN OF BEN KENOBI (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

19 THE POWER GEM (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

20 ICEWORLD (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

21 REVENGE OF THE JEDI (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

22 DOOM MISSION (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

23 RACE FOR SURVIVAL (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

24 THE PARADISE DETOUR (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

25 A NEW BEGINNING (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

26 SHOWDOWN (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

27 THE FINAL TRAP (w/ Archie Goodwin, a: Al Williamson)

DARK HORSE REPRINTS

CLASSIC STAR WARS #1-20 — reprints newspaper strips #10-27

CLASSIC STAR WARS: THE VANDELHELM MISSION —

reprints Marvel #98

CLASSIC STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK —

reprints Marvel adaptation #39-44

CLASSIC STAR WARS: RETURN OF THE JEDI — reprints Marvel adaptation #1-4

CLASSIC STAR WARS: HAN SOLO AT STARS' END — reprints newspaper strip #11

CLASSIC STAR WARS, VOLUME ONE: IN DEADLY PURSUIT — collects CSW #1-7

CLASSIC STAR WARS, VOLUME TWO: REBEL STORM — collects CSW #8-14

CLASSIC STAR WARS, VOLUME THREE: ESCAPE TO HOTH — collects CSW #15-20

CLASSIC STAR WARS, VOLUME FIVE: HAN SOLO AT STARS' END — collects CSW #21-27

CLASSIC STAR WARS: A LONG TIME AGO ... — reprints tales from the Marvel series

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK: SPECIAL EDITION — reprints Marvel adaptation

RETURN OF THE JEDI: SPECIAL EDITION — reprints Marvel adaptation

STAR WARS #0 — reprints Pizzazz #1-8 (Archie worked on #7-8)

compiled by Rich Handley



Toy Fair, Episode I And the Elusive B'omarr Monk

»Readers from Australia to Okinawa Show the International Appeal of *Star Wars* Collecting.

by Steve Sansweet

Designers at Hasbro's Kenner group and Galoob Toys are well into the process of designing the first toys for Episode I, but those of you who are fans of Luke, Leia, Han, and the others have nothing to fear.



» One of the much-valued *Star Wars* Buddies.

At New York's famed Toy Fair earlier this year, Kenner unveiled a slew of hot new *Star Wars* toys based on the original trilogy (many are on shelves by now), and Episode I will just make even more clear what Lucasfilm has been saying for a while: all six chapters of the *Star Wars* saga are part of one epic story. We'll never lose sight of the characters who first drew us to the original trilogy. And as far as merchandise and collectibles go, there will always be a place for Classic *Star Wars*.

Meanwhile, with every month seeming to bring yet another new collector-oriented toy



» A parade of Kenner's exclusive B'omarr Monk figures marches across this installment of *Scouting*.

magazine to the newsstand, I'd like to reiterate that this column is about the fun and joy—and sometimes the frustrations—of collecting. Sure, on occasion I'll answer price questions, and I am co-author of the official *Tomorrow's Price Guide to Worldwide Star Wars Collectibles*, the only one compiled with access to the Lucasfilm archives. But I'll tell you a secret: the most fun for me in putting that book together was not in pricing items but in compiling as complete an inventory as possible of worldwide *Star Wars* goodies, so that I could share with others just how broad and deep and rich that world is.

Which is why I shudder when I see a collectibles column that speculates—with no real information—what the price of the new plush *Star Wars* Buddies will eventually be, and how

much they're worth now. To list scalper prices for a new item that is just making its way to the shelves is crazy. If collectors would just take a deep breath when they see a jacked-up price at a comic shop or convention for a newly shipping toy, they almost certainly will be able to buy it from the Jawa Trader, or, in a few weeks at one of the large discount chains. Licensees are in the mass-market business, and those initial scalper prices will almost always descend within a few weeks as supply starts to meet the real demand.

Now, everyone together, let's take that deep breath while we try to answer some of your questions about collecting, not alchemy.



» *Star Wars* is a worldwide phenomenon and collectors around the world should all at least have a fair chance of being able to purchase such [exclusive] figures.

—TOM SCHOFIELD, MARIETTA, GA



Exclusive to the USA

Kenner has been producing a lot of exclusive *Star Wars* figures for sale in the U.S. This is really cool if you live there, but what about overseas collectors who simply don't have a chance? *Star Wars* is a worldwide phenomenon and collectors around the world should all at least have a fair chance of being able to purchase such figures. Would you please publish this letter so that it might get Kenner's attention?

CLINT MARLBOROUGH

Cabarita, New South Wales,

Australia

*My pleasure, Clint. I get many letters like yours each month. It's a complex problem. Hasbro is a public company that is in business to produce good products that make money; why would it deliberately want to shoot itself in the foot by not producing enough of items that people everywhere want to buy? The short answer is that it would love to sell every variation of every *Star Wars* product from Cabarita to Cabazon. But the markets overseas are so much smaller than the U.S. market, that foreign retailers have*

been reluctant to buy every product in the line, instead concentrating on the well-known characters.

*Luckily, they are beginning to realize that *Star Wars* is also a collectors' phenomenon, and Hasbro has been having more success in convincing foreign retailers that they should bring in more of the "background" characters, although perhaps not in as large numbers as the more well-*

known figures. Also, just because an item may be a store "exclusive" in the U.S. doesn't mean that it can't sell in every toy store everywhere else in the world.

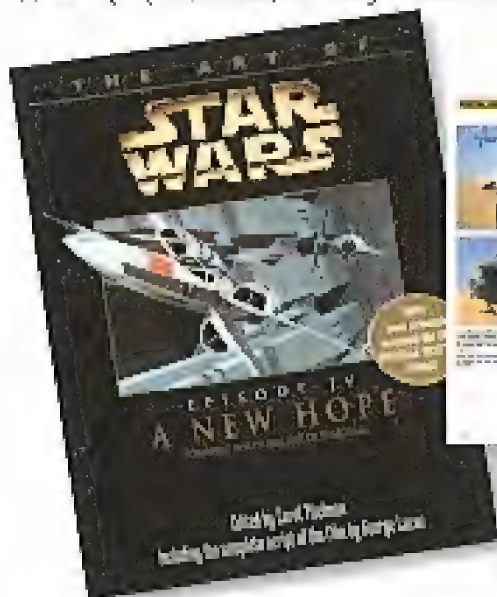
*So I think the situation is slowly being resolved, as you can see when you visit Australian toy stores and find "exclusives" that have sold out in the U.S. That might give you great trade bait for getting other elusive figures from your American friends. (The Jawa Trader sells the entire line of Kenner action figures, including *Star Wars* Fan Club exclusives, to foreign customers. Just call to see what's currently available— Shameless Plug Dept. — Ed.)*

How Special is my Special Edition Poster?

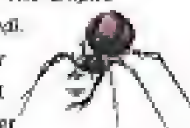
I have trade paperbacks that feature conceptual art and storyboards for *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*. Was there a similar book for *Star Wars*? Also, while in San Rafael last year I bought a Special Edition poster that's 26" by 16" and features the artwork and movie logos from all three posters without the credits. Across the top is the Special Edition logo. I was pleased just to find the artwork in a



» This rare poster was created for the premiere of the *Star Wars* Trilogy Special Edition.



» The Special Edition version of *The Art of Star Wars* showcases enhancements made to *A New Hope*.



>> Do Star Wars-only merchandise stores exist? Surely there is enough merchandise to fill at least one store.

—JAMES KÓTECKI, RALEIGH, NC



The folks at the store were correct. The beautiful poster that you bought was printed by 20th Century Fox and given as a gift at the Los Angeles premiere of the Star Wars Special Edition and later as part of a gift from George Lucas to his employees to mark the success of the theatrical release. Since the beautiful artwork of Drew Struzan was conceived as a triptych, it's great to have all three images together in a wall-friendly size. The print run likely topped 2,500.

B'omarr Monk and Star Wars Stores

I don't have a computer, yet I want to get the Kenner Internet exclusive B'omarr Monk. Is it available some other way? And who was this character? Also, I saw on the Sci Fi Channel that there's an all-Star Wars store somewhere in California. Do you know its address?



TODD GUADAGNO
South Ozone Park, NY

Do Star Wars-only merchandise stores exist? Surely there is enough merchandise to fill at least one store.

JAMES KÓTECKI, Raleigh, NC

The B'omarr Monk was a background character in Jabba the Hutt's palace; its role has been expanded in *Star Wars: Action*. Hasbro used the figure to test Internet sales, but also made sure the address was printed in many collector magazines. I'm afraid the offer has expired, but dealers are selling the figure for \$15 and up.

Yes, there is certainly enough merchandise to fill at least one Star Wars-only store. And the one shown on Sci Fi Channel is Lance Worth's *Star Force Collectibles*, which carries a huge amount of old and new licensed trilogy merchandise—and nothing else. It's located at 367 N. Magnolia, #103, El Cajon, CA 92020 (619-588-7697). I know the place well, as do my credit card companies.

Keep up to date

Where can I get a complete list of all the figures produced by Kenner? Also, I

was reading a new book, *Tales from the Empire*, and was surprised to find out that they came from a magazine. Where can I get the *Star Wars Adventure Journal*?

BRANDON BOULAIS, Pismo Beach, CA

The most up-to-date list of all Kenner action figures is on the Internet at www.starwars.hasbro.com, which is extremely cool for a variety of reasons. If you don't have Web access, there are magazines such as the *Star Wars Galaxy Collector* that frequently print action figure price guides that include the latest figures and variations. The Official *Star Wars Adventure Journal* is a really



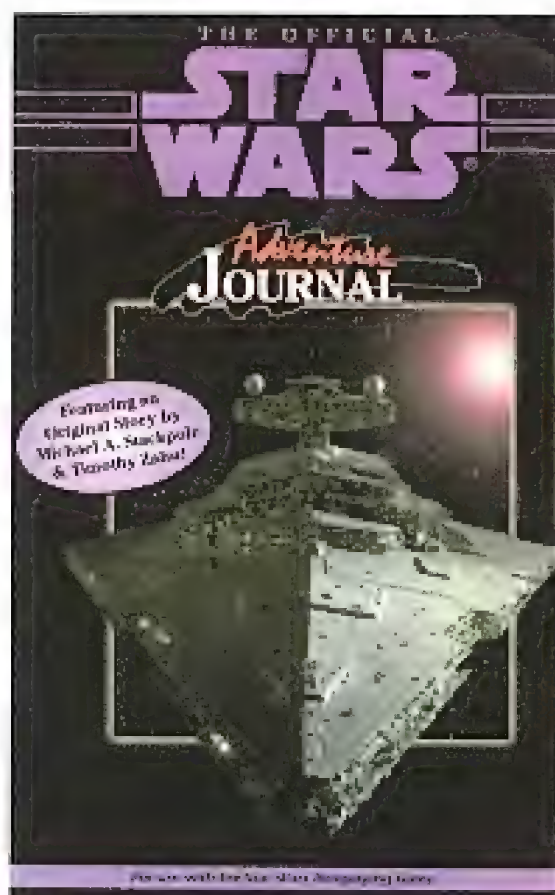
•• The most up-to-date list of Star Wars action figures can be found at www.starwars.hasbro.com

size that fits on my wall, but I was also told at the store that, "That's the poster they were giving to employees up at the Ranch." Could you confirm that, and about how many were made?

JENN GRIFFEE, Inaquinb, WA

You're missing *The Art of Star Wars*, a beautiful trade paperback from Bantam Books that was reprinted last year with an additional, updated section on the *Star Wars Special*

Edition (as were the books for the other two films). All three are still in print and can be easily ordered at your local bookstore or at an online shop such as amazon.com.



•• The Official *Star Wars Adventure Journal* from West End Games is a quarterly source for short stories, original art, and role-playing games.

neat, thick (nearly 300 pages) quarterly from West End Games. It contains short stories, original art,

>> How does the blue and white Japanese language-sticker on the backs of all the [Japanese] figures affect their collectibility?

—BLAKE L. STEFFEN, OKINAWA/JACKSONVILLE FL

and role-playing games. Copies are available for \$12 each at B. Dalton bookstores. An annual subscription is a bargain at \$35 and available by writing to the magazine at West End Games, RR3 Box 2345, Honesdale, PA 18431-9560.

Japanese C-3PO

I am a 25-year-old Marine currently deployed to Okinawa, Japan. Since I'm here for only six months, my wife is in America scouring the stores to aid in my *Star Wars* obsession. The prices for U.S. figures in the collectibles stores here are crazy, so I've been buying Japanese-market Kenner figures. I've been told that the dull, tarnished finish on C-3PO is exclusive to Japan. Is that true? How does the blue and white Japanese-language sticker on the backs of all the figures affect their collectibility? Are there any other packaging differences? I've purchased a few of the new figures here and they don't have the hologram stickers that the same figures purchased by my wife have. What does it all mean? Please help me, Steve. You're my only hope.

Semper Fi, *Star Wars*

BLAKE L. STEFFEN

Okinawa/Jacksonville N.C.

Well, glad to hear you're finding something half a world away. The Japanese interest in *Star Wars* was really rekindled by the release of the Special Editions last year. The "dull" Threepio—which has the slightest of green tints—was made for the Japanese market after regulatory authorities said that the regular vacuum-metalized version sold everywhere else in the world couldn't be sold to very young children for fear that the plating process would mean the plastic would shatter easier.

The really rare Japanese C-3PO, then, is the first gold metalized version with a front sticker that says it's only for children ages 7 and up. Instead of the normal 3 or 4 years of age. But the dull Threepio is a definite variation of interest to collectors worldwide. Bring back a sack and use them as trade bait. They should trade for the



It may not make you a Jedi, but you can now purchase a prop replica of Obi-Wan Kenobi's lightsaber.

equivalent of about \$35 in merchandise.

The Japanese-language stickers on the card backs are another variation, but most collectors would be happy having just one sample; the value eventually should be about the same or slightly less than a mint U.S. figure, based on past history. With holograms or without? Another factory packaging variation. In the long run, I think the ones with holograms will be worth more for one simple reason: with care, the stickers can be removed with nary a trace.

An Elegant Prop Replica

Are we ever going to see a prop replica of Obi-Wan's lightsaber?

DAVE CIANCOLA Knoxville, TN

Funny, but I've been asking the folks at ICONS Authentic Replicas the same question for months. The prototype looked incredible and I was salivating for quite a while. But there were some vendor problems and other delays. ICONS assures me that by the time you read this, Ben's weapon for a more civilized time should be in plentiful supply, retailing for about \$350.



Please send your questions and comments about collectibles to SCOUTING THE GALAXY, Dept. SM, P.O. Box 591800, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Individual replies aren't possible because of time constraints, but we'll answer the questions of broadest interest in the column. Letters are edited for grammar, sense and length.



Courtesy of 20th Century Fox

» Above: Samuel L. Jackson and Bruce Willis in *Die Hard* with a Vengeance. Below: Samuel L. Jackson in *Juice* Brown.



Courtesy of Miramax

» ***A Quentin set is like going to high school and being with all your best friends all day long, and there are no teachers around to tell you what you do and what not to do.***

» Samuel L. Jackson

continued from page 33

want to do. But if they give you an assignment, you find a fun way to get it done, and it still gets done. You're able to have more fun because you got it done quicker. That's a Quentin set.

How you became an actor all your life?

I got into it because I was taking a speech class in college, and the guy offered us extra

credit for the class if we'd do his play. I had never even been in the drama department, let alone gone to see a play on campus. After that I never stopped doing it.

What hooked you?

Sex, drugs, and—no [laughs]. I don't know, I just enjoyed the feeling of being up there on stage and making believe and not being myself and just having a great time. And that was it for a while. When I started to do

street theater, and then I started doing children's theater and repertory theater at this other company. I realized that I could make a living doing it, and I could have a great time. That made me kind of serious about it.

All of a sudden everything else became insignificant, and I threw myself into it. When I got up in the morning, I was at the theater in the drama department and I was building sets all day, and I would go and do this other job at the children's theater and then I had to come back to the theater at the school, and after that we had our own guerilla street theater that we used to rehearse until 3 in the morning. It was an ongoing thing. It totally became part of my fabric, being an actor.

Do you still get the same buzz out of it?

Oh yeah, totally. If I didn't, I wouldn't do it. Folks are always saying, "Don't you want to direct?" I don't have that feeling. I have a burning desire to act, and I do. I don't think directing is a natural offshoot of what we do. I don't feel the need to exercise that kind of power over it yet. Plus I like my downtime in my trailer.

So was working with George Lucas everything you'd hoped it would be?

Oh, George is totally cool. He knows how he wants it to happen. He hired us, he trusted us, so he's not giving us a lot of direction. He's very low-key on set. He's the first director I've ever known to have airplanes flying over and stuff falling around behind him and not yell cut. He'd just go, "Yeah, that was good for me." He has to do so much in post, that's the last thing he's worried about.

There was no tension, no pressure. People would have you believe that something that has that much secrecy around it would be a lot more tense or uptight, but it's not. I just hope this movie hits everybody the way it did the first time. It's the first part of a new trilogy, and I hope I'll be around for the rest! ☺

>> Rebel Rumblings

continued from page 8

It takes a long time to make a great movie. Writing the script, finding the right cast and crew, shooting, editing, and creating the visual effects, getting everything just right—you wouldn't want them to rush it, would you? And no, Episodes I and II did not shoot back-to-back.

Monster Mash

I found Scott Chernoff's article about Greedo interesting, but a little discomforting. I will be the first to forgive Maria de Aragon for calling Greedo a "monster." After all, she is the one who gave him life, so she can call him whatever she wants! I just hope those who happen to read her comments, and are not die-hard fans, don't begin to call all the various humanoids and other denizens of the Star Wars universe "monsters." Greedo is no more a monster than is Chewbacca or the Noghri or Admiral Ackbar! Yeah, I'll admit he acted like a monster, but given his past, most any one would have.

I have been a member of your fan club for a while now and have really enjoyed the news of the prequels. Has Mr. Lucas named Episode I yet? I saw a rumor that it may be called *Balance of the Force*. That doesn't seem like a title he would come up with. I would like to see a web site for the *Insider*. Keep up the awesome work! I look forward to future issues.

LISA PARROTT San Angelo, TX

Lisa, you're not the first reader who's asked us about an Insider web site, and it's something we are considering. In the meantime, allow me to direct you to www.starwars.com, Lucasfilm's official Star Wars web site. As you'll learn there, and in our Prequel Update on page 10, there is no title yet for Episode I. As for Greedo, whether he's called a monster, a creature, a Rodian, or a bounty hunter, we all know what Greedo really is: a superstar.

Lela & Han —Married or Not?

I have a question about Issue 35. First, I think it was an excellent issue, and I loved the timeline in it. It has helped me keep track of where everything else ties in. I have only one problem: at the end of *Prophets of the Dark Side*, Han and Leia get married. Then, three years after that, in *The Courtship of Princess Leia*, they are not married yet. Is this a mistake, or do *The Glove of Darth Vader*, *The Last City of the Jedi*, *Zorba the Hutt's Revenge*, *Mission from Mount Yoda*, *Queen of the Empire*, and *Prophets of the Dark Side* not tie in to the real story line because they are for

>> Greedo is no more a monster than is Chewbacca or the Noghri or Admiral Ackbar!

—LISA PARROTT, SAN ANGELO, TX

younger readers? Or were there more books in this set? What am I missing? Please respond—I must know!

JOSEPH V. CIARAVINO Apalachin, NY

*You're right—Han and Leia are not yet married in *The Courtship of Princess Leia* because, at the time they were published, no effort was made to integrate the juvenile line of books you mentioned into the main timeline of Star Wars continuity that existed for the rest of the novels. But there is no mistake in our timeline: the books are positioned correctly, though the events they depict do not always mesh exactly with other Star Wars stories.*

Hallucinating, Pt. 3

Issue 37 of the *Insider* was, as we've come to expect, quite excellent. All the people who contribute to the *Insider* seem to have their hearts in the work—and believe me, it does make a difference. Thank you for providing such a wonderful (and reliable) link to the Star Wars universe.

Something in Rebel Rumblings from Issue 37 has me curious. This has to do with the infamous lost Biggs/Tatooine scenes—but before you roll your eyes, hear me out, please. I have a theory about the mass hallucination. I'm very familiar with the photo of Biggs and Luke that ran on the last page of the Rebel Rumblings column, because it is also in a Star Wars picture storybook that my brothers and I received back in the early '80s. Perhaps Patrick, Christina, and Todd read this book too, which would account for their memory of the scene. I've read that the subconscious mind can't tell the difference between an event that is real and an event that is vividly imagined—and what is more vividly imagined than anything Star Wars? Could this explain the mass hallucination?

C.B. TAYLOR Cottonwood, CA

Hey hallucinating Star Wars fans—I read Patrick's and Christina's letters about the Anchorhead scenes in Issue 37 of the *Insider*. I think what is going on here is that Star Wars is so much a part of our lives that everything new seems so familiar. Probably like most people, I saw the movie before I read the novel. Because I saw the movie first, I knew what Luke

Skywalker looked like, and who could forget Biggs losing his life in keeping Vader off Luke's back in the Death Star trench? When I read the novel, those scenes that I never saw in the movie were so crystal clear in my imagination that when I saw the still shots in issue 35 of the *Insider*, they were almost of no surprise to me because I had already seen them... in my head!

So are Patrick and Christina crazy? No, they just have a "True Fan" heart and a wonderful imagination. Who knows where our imaginations can take us? Just ask George Lucas.

JIM ROSENGREEN Fullerton, CA

*We got loads of letters from fans responding to Patrick and Christina. Most of them pointed out the appearance of the Biggs scene in *The Star Wars Story Book*, as well as the movie's novelization, radio dramatization, and comic book adaptation, while other fans wrote to assure us that they have a tape of the 1982 CBS broadcast of Star Wars to which Patrick and Christina referred and that the scenes are not in it. So we'll let this be the final word on the subject: If you think you ever saw the Biggs/Anchorhead scenes in Star Wars—the movie itself—you are most likely remembering the scene from a book, comic, or magazine. Or your name is George Lucas.*

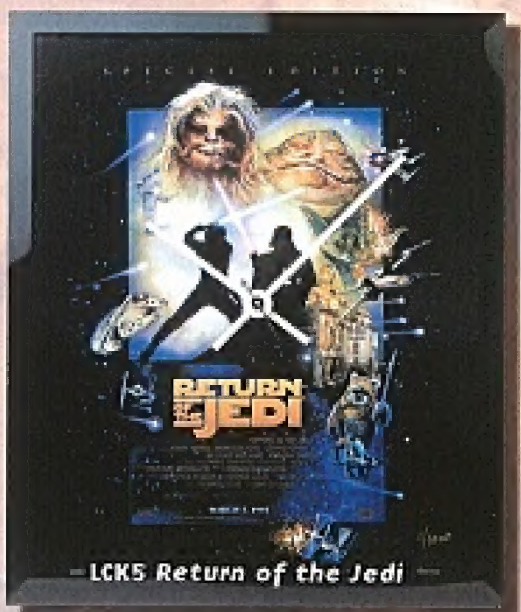
Card Shark

What do you do use the membership card for?

SAM MUNCE Sioux Falls, SD

Excellent question, Sam. While I wish I could tell you to run your membership card through an ATM and get lots of money, or flash it to gain entrance to a supercool secret club, but sadly this is not the case. Instead, your Star Wars Fan Club membership card is your personal badge of Star Wars fandom, boldly declaring to the world that you're in tune with the power of the Force. Put your membership card in your wallet or pocket, and it is a physical reminder that whenever you go, the Force is with you.

Write to: REBEL RUMBLINGS, P.O. Box 111000, Aurora, CO 80042. Letters may be edited for clarity and space considerations. The Star Wars Insider is not responsible for any unsolicited material received.



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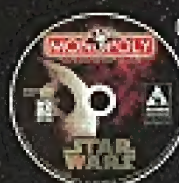
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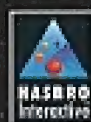


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